

gay community news

The Gay Weekly

Vol. 4, No. 43 April 23, 1977

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Beautiful Men,
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gay community news

Vol. 4, No. 43

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(617) 426-4469

April 23, 1977

But Other "Conspirators" to be Sentenced

Harry Reems, Porno Star, Gets a New Trial

MEMPHIS, TN — Harry Reems, the porno star who had been convicted as part of a conspiracy for his one-day stint of acting in the X-rated film "Deep Throat," has been granted a new trial. US District Court Judge Harry Wellford asserted in a decision last week that Reems deserved a new trial because his acting in "Deep Throat" took place before the US Supreme Court's *Miller vs. California* decision in 1973. That Supreme Court decision gave localities the right to set "community standards" in dealing with pornography.

However, the eleven other individuals and four corporations also accused of conspiracy to produce and distribute "Deep Throat" will not be given new trials. These defendants were also convicted along with Reems during the nine-week "show trial" in Memphis. Judge Wellford ruled that the defendants other than Reems had participated in a conspiracy both before the time of the Supreme Court decision and during the period of time after that decision.

The other defendants will be sentenced on April 29.

Reems' lawyer, Harvard Law School Professor Alan Dershowitz, told GCN that he was "not satisfied" with Judge Wellford's decision. "The judge ruled on the narrowest grounds possible," said Dershowitz. "What we wanted was a complete dismissal of the indictment based on the fact that Reems' participation took place before the *Miller vs. California* decision and because an actor has no control over the final form of a film."

However, Dershowitz noted that the "practical effect" of Justice Wellford's decision might well be to "end the matter." "I hope that the new [Carter] administration will be more sensitive and that the government has learned its lesson. Even though the ruling was made on such narrow grounds, the accumulated impact of such decisions on broad conspiracy prosecutions are beginning to show that the courts are not sympathetic."

The decision on whether the government now will move for a re-

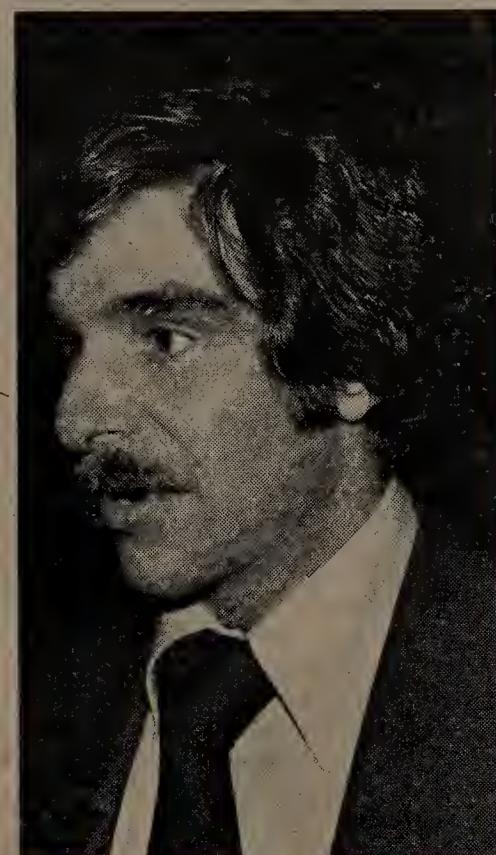


Photo by John Scagliotti

Harry Reems

trial in the Reems case lies in the hands of the federal prosecutors in Memphis. Larry Parrish, the anti-pornography crusader who was the assistant federal prosecutor in Memphis, has now been replaced by a more liberal federal officer in the wake of the Carter Administration's ascension to power. "For them to bring it back to trial would be beating a dead horse," Reems told the *Boston Globe* in an interview.

The Reems case drew strong national attention because of what civil libertarians believed was an abuse of the conspiracy laws. A Boston benefit held at Together last November to raise funds for Reems' defense was organized by *Fag Rag* collective member John Mitzel and attended by a large number of gay people. "If the Reems conviction is allowed to stand," Mitzel told GCN at the time, "the writer of any piece that appears in a gay magazine or newspaper can be indicted and tried as part of a national conspiracy if anything in that publication is judged obscene in any community in America."

Merchants Group Elects 2 Gay Men

'Whispering Campaign' Fails On Newbury Street

By John Fowler

BOSTON — Two gay men were elected officers of the Newbury Street League, a merchant's association representing businesses located on one of Boston's most fashionable shopping districts, at an April 5 meeting. The elections came after heated controversy about the men's homosexuality. In addition, a third gay man resigned his post and refused to be re-elected for a fifth term, stating, "too many people in the League are hypocrites." A

fourth gay man lost in his bid for election.

Ron Catena, manager of Romano's Bakery on Newbury Street, was elected to the Board of Directors, and Eric Ross, also a Newbury Street business person became the League's new president.

Following the nominations for election last month, Catena said he suspected the gay issue might be brought up. Two days prior to the elections on April 5, a "whispering campaign" against the gay candidates began,

according to Catena. "Word got around," he said, "—don't let the faggots take over the League."

This action surprised former treasurer of the League Frank Tanzer, whose resignation was prompted by the whispering campaign. "People I had associated with for six or seven years all of a sudden became bigoted and narrow minded," he commented. "So I resigned. I decided nothing was worth eating my pride and working with these people."

Shortly before the elections, Catena and Ross apparently tracked down two sources of the anti-gay campaign. "I confronted both of them, and I just said, look, most of your customers are gay. If you object to gay people on the board, then you object to gay customers," Catena said.

"Gay men don't have to send their sons through college — we don't have to save our money," he explained, "we just spend it, here on Newbury Street. But we don't have to spend it here."

This rationale apparently contributed to the sudden turn-about of sentiment

among "straight" merchants. At the Tuesday election-meeting both Ross and Catena received large pluralities of the vote, while Louis Terranagra, another gay candidate, is believed to have lost by a small margin.

It was at that packed meeting that Tanzer resigned and explained his actions to the League membership. "It was a very tense night," Tanzer said. It became clear through the discussion that many straight merchants feared the League, under gay leadership, would become a sounding board for gay rights activists. "They just didn't understand that there are plenty of organizations for that purpose," Tanzer stated. Tanzer said he will only involve himself with the League for special projects after this. President-elect Eric Ross could not be reached for comment.

One League member explained that the organization is concerned primarily with promotion of Newbury Street as a whole, and that the group sponsors various projects, including an annual Night at the Pops.

Matlovich to Head Miami Fight



Leonard Matlovich

MIAMI, Fla. — Leonard Matlovich, the openly gay Air Force sergeant who was ousted by the military last year, has been named as co-chairperson and full-time spokesperson for Miami's gay rights fight. Matlovich, who is a registered Dade County voter although he has been living in Washington since leaving the Air Force, is expected to give the gay forces a boost in the upcoming

June 7 referendum. "He's a natural for the job," said Bob Basker of the Dade County Gay Rights Coalition.

While Matlovich was being named to lead the gay forces, the fate of both the controversial Dade County gay rights ordinance and the proposed July 7 referendum was still in doubt. Judge Sam Silver of Dade County Circuit Court was scheduled to make a decision on the constitutionality of the ordinance last Friday, a day after GCN went to press. The decision has already been delayed by a week.

The ordinance found its way into the court when a local right-wing businessman, Ellis Rubin, filed a suit questioning its constitutionality. Phillip Carlton, lawyer for the Gay Coalition, has asked the judge to dismiss the motion, claiming that Rubin did not have the standing to file the suit.

Miami gays plan to appeal Silver's decision, if he should rule against the Coalition. "It's hard to figure out what Silver will decide. He's a corporate lawyer and he's also going to be up for re-election soon. We're just not sure," said Bob Basker of the Coalition.

MADISON, WI — Jim Yeadon, the first openly gay alderperson in Madison's history, has been returned to office with 58% of the vote. Yeadon, who represents the part of the city around the University of Wisconsin, has been elected to the city council for a partial term in October. He was chosen at a special caucus. Yeadon's victory over Robert Estka by a 1555 to 1090 vote was his first electoral bid in a general election. Estka is a junior at the University of Wisconsin and has been described as a "fraternity-type."

Yeadon will serve for two years. In the same city-wide election, Paul Soglin, who had once been elected Mayor as a "radical," was re-elected by a sweeping 63% of the vote.

The gay issue did not play a role in Yeadon's campaign. "I think anybody who brings it (the gay issue) up will sink his own ship," Yeadon said in an interview recently. Yeadon has been a gay activist since 1969 and played a leading role in the enactment of Madison's anti-discrimination ordinance.

news notes

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

"When the *Globe* wrote about no-bid contracts, I had a no-bid contract. When they wrote about career schools, I had a career school. Now they're writing about no-shows, so I've got a no-show. I hope they don't write about transsexuals, because I can prove what I am." — Boston City Councillor John J. Kerrigan speaking to the Boston Finance Commission, April 12, 1977

"THE NAKED TRUTH"

BOSTON — A slide show whose theme is the cultural conditioning of women via advertising will be presented on April 24 at Emerson College. Jean Kilbourne, writer and teacher, will examine ways in which advertisements reinforce sexual stereotypes and affect women's self-images. The discussion will take place on Sunday, April 24, at 3:30 p.m. at 96 Beacon St., Boston. Admission is free.

WOMEN'S CULTURE

BOSTON — A group of local women are planning a women's cultural event to happen in July. "One of the principle purposes of the celebration is to give ourselves space and time to share and teach our arts. We are seeing a need for wimmin who live in the area and who are in many ways invisible in our own wimmin's community to be able to come together and teach and express our wimmin's visions," they say. Musicians, painters, dancers, actors, mimists, filmmakers, writers, audio artists, and any and all other artists are invited to participate. Anyone interested should call: Jeannette, Jane, or Pat at 265-7183; Leah or Diane at 924-7546; or Mary at 964-2579.

SOMEWHERE BENEFIT

BOSTON — An auction/brunch for the benefit of Gay Legislation '77 will be held on Sunday afternoon, April 24, 1977, at Somewhere, 295 Franklin Street, Boston, beginning at 2:00 p.m. All proceeds will benefit Gay Legislation '77, the committee which is working to pass the 1977 Massachusetts gay rights bills. Refreshments will be served. Among the items to be auctioned off: a special tour of the State House by Rep. Barney Frank, a picnic on the banks of the Charles River with Rep. Elaine Noble, dinner at Anabel's of Ogunquit (Maine), and many more surprise items!

ON TRIAL IN BATON ROUGE

BATON ROUGE, La. — A Baton Rouge gay activist was scheduled to stand trial last month on charges of kidnapping a 17 year old hitchhiker. The activist, Huey Beverly, maintains his innocence and claims that the local police worked through the hitchhiker to press false charges because of his gay activism. "There was no crime. There is no crime. I am fighting these retaliatory charges as far — and as long — as is necessary," said the 39-year-old activist.

Beverly is a member of the National Gay Task Force and the American Civil Liberties Union and is active in prison reform for gay prisoners.

UPGRADING DISCHARGES

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Secretary of Defense Harold Brown has announced application procedures for former servicepeople who wish to upgrade their discharges under the Carter administration's liberalized program. People who were given dishonorable or less than honorable discharges for homosexuality are expected to have no difficulty in application for upgrading.

Former service members, other than those in deserter status, can apply for discharge review by contacting the Joint Liaison Office at 800-325-4040. The toll-free telephone number will be operational between 7 a.m. CST and 8 p.m. CST. Applications obtained by mail will be treated in a manner identical to telephone applications. Mail applications should be sent to Joint Liaison Office, Attn: Army/Navy/USMC/Air Force Liaison Team, USARCPAC, St. Louis, Mo. 63132.

BEACH-COMBING

REVERE, MA — Metropolitan District Commission (MDC) police have instituted periodic "sweeps" of Revere Beach during the late evening hours. Several persons have reported to GCN that police vehicles have recently been converging on the popular gay male cruising area many times, instructing men on the beach and sidewalk (the area in front of the police station) to move along.

According to William Delaney, MDC public relations director, the reason for the patrols is that the activity of the men along the beach area has exceeded sitting on the benches or walking on the beach. "We don't want anyone hassling anyone," explained Delaney. "People have been soliciting other people. It's gone a lot further than before. There have been no arrests as yet, but I would expect that if moving them along fails to work, then we could institute arrest."

PRISON RAPE AND ESCAPE

SPRINGFIELD, Ill. — The Illinois Supreme Court has ruled that prison inmates who escape may cite homosexual attacks against them as a defense in court. The decision came in the case of Francis Unger, who escaped from the Illinois State Penitentiary honor farm on March 7, 1972. Unger testified at his escape trial that he had been molested by three inmates five days before his escape.

Unger's attorneys had argued that the jury in the case should be allowed to consider the attack and a later death threat as "an affirmative defense of compulsion and necessity." The judge in the case had instructed the jury to disregard this line of reasoning but as the State Supreme Court has overturned the decision, the case will return to Circuit Court.



PENIS CONSTRUCTION

ST. LOUIS, MO. — The first female-to-male transsexual has been fitted with a penis that is capable of erection. The penis — containing a hydraulic system that permits fluid from the reservoir in the abdomen into the penis to cause erection — was designed by a University of Missouri urologist and plastic surgeon.

In the past, surgeons have not attempted to construct a penis capable of erection. Mastectomies or the removal of ovaries have been accomplished or a rod has been implanted in the penis in some cases that kept the penis in a permanent state of semi-erection.

GAY MEN'S CENTER NEWS

BOSTON — The Gay Men's Center has moved to its new location at 718 Beacon Street. The new telephone number is 247-7312 and is expected to be connected shortly.

The past few months have been difficult and hectic ones for the Center. Faced with the move, which included the location of property, leases, lawyers, incorporation, and the search for a new coordinator, many activities have had to be curtailed. But now plans are being made for an official grand opening on the weekend of May 7, featuring disco music and dancing, and poetry and art as possible activities. Input from friends and members is most welcome. For the present, considerable cleaning and painting need to be done and people are urged to come and help out.

There will be a new rap group starting the first Thursday in May and other activities, such as Gay Forum, will be resuming shortly.

In order for the GMC to continue this type of operation, or extend it, the Center needs public support. Anyone who wishes to volunteer at the Center or to donate money to it is urged to get in touch with the Center.

BOURBON STREET MURDERS

NEW ORLEANS, La. — New Orleans police combed Bourbon Street last week in a search for the "French Quarter Stabber." Five men were dead by last week and at least three of the murders are believed to be gay-related. The stabbings began on Feb. 14 and all the slayings are thought to have a similar pattern. Three of the five victims — all men — were sexually molested. Another victim, a 77-year-old man, was found in his apartment by his landlord in a kneeling position. He had been stabbed 50 times.

Streets were reportedly quieter than usual in the French Quarter since the body of the most recent victim was found last Thursday. "We're investigating the cases individually and as a group," said Police Lt. Thomas Duffy. But Duffy refused to say that the killings of the five men were related.

20,000,000 FOR REAL

BLOOMINGTON, Ind. — Paul H. Gebhart, director of the Institute for Sex Research at Indiana University, has announced an updating of the Kinsey studies from 1938 to 1963. Gebhard has reworked the data on homosexual experiences of American men and women and finds that "13.95% of males and 4.25% of females, or a combined average of 9.13% of the total population, had either extensive or incidental homosexual experience." "Extensive" homosexual experience is defined as having 21 or more partners or 51 or more experiences, and "incidental" as having 5 to 20 partners or 21 to 50 experiences.

Gebhard's work leads him to conclude that "a significant percentage of the American population is predominantly homosexual in its sexual and affectional orientation." The National Gay Task Force asserts that this study supports their claim to a population of 20,000,000 predominantly gay people in the United States.

UPCOMING TV

NEW YORK, N.Y. — CBS-TV will air a program called "How Parents Deal with Homosexuality in Children" on its "CBS News Magazine" show on Thursday, April 21. The show will take place at 10 a.m., New York time. The National Gay Task Force urges gay people to monitor the show and write comments to Robert Wussler, President, CBS-TV Network, 51 W. 52nd St., New York City 10019. The same network is planning to arrange the "perfect date" for Archie Bunker's practical-joker pal on "All In the Family" on Saturday, April 23. Archie's friend's "perfect date" turns out to be a professional female impersonator.

In addition, CBS's "Young and Restless" is featuring a lesbian theme, reportedly not positively developed. The program airs at 12 noon, Monday through Friday, New York time.

GAY BUSINESS GROUP

BOSTON — A growing number of Boston-area businesses which are either gay owned, managed or oriented have joined the newly-formed Gay Business Association.

Goals of the organization include more contacts in the gay business world, extensive referrals, group life insurance, plans, cooperative advertising, group travel, and the other benefits associated with business affiliations.

The list of businesses and services include: Beacon Tours, Forever Flamingo, Frank Tanzer Gallery, La Trattoria Restaurant, Koala Bear Haircutters, Diane Bellevance Ad Agency, Xanadu Graphics and Xanadu Printing, Rook, Roth and Rubino, Gay Community News, many gay bars, and a variety of others involved in entertainment, investment counseling, typography, research, and technical writing.

"The organization is for people who are interested in attracting a larger gay clientele," stated Linda Carford, co-owner of Beacon Tours and a GBA board member. "The more persons who join as an associate, full or sponsoring member, the better chance we have of improving our strength as a voice within the community, increasing our business, expanding our understanding of who is available within the community to receive referrals, and broadening our scope of where to take our own need of services."

The next general meeting of the Gay Business Association will be held May 23, at the Community Club, 252 Boylston St., at 8 p.m. For further information on that meeting or on the association itself, persons may contact: Gay Business Association, 102 Charles Street, Boston, MA 02114.

Yale Gay Rights Week Gains Minority Support

By Michael Austin

NEW HAVEN, CT — April 4-8 was Gay Rights Week at Yale University and gay and straight people involved are already calling it a milestone in the progress of Yale's gay movement. A coalition of 16 campus organizations, representing women, ethnic minorities, religious groups, the student government, and gay men and lesbians, had proclaimed the week. The week had three purposes — to muster support for the Connecticut Sexual Orientation Bill, to raise consciousness on campus about gay issues, and to demonstrate support for Yale gays. All week long, there were posters throughout the campus, table cards on all the dining hall tables, and announcements on the university radio station describing the week. There was extensive coverage in the student newspaper — the *Yale Daily News* — and on Wednesday the entire editorial page was devoted to endorsements and explanations of the program.

On Wednesday, organizers began distributing 5000 copies of an educational leaflet outside all twelve undergraduate dining halls, as well as the graduate and professional schools. They also started passing petitions in support of the Connecticut and National Gay Rights Bills, and by week's end had garnered more than 2000 signatures, making this one of the most successful petition drives in recent Yale history.

From Wednesday through Friday, hundreds of people, gay and straight, wore the Pink Triangle to demonstrate their solidarity with the gay liberation movement. The Coalition's call for people to wear the Pink Triangle — the emblem of gays in Nazi death camps — forced persons to re-examine their commitments, and to make new ones. "I was somewhat hesitant to put on a triangle, for fear of being thought of as gay," said one student. "In fact, I did

get some hostile looks. But I really understand now for the first time how a gay person could fear coming out to straights." Another person commented that, by Thursday, when hundreds donned the triangle, "I felt an immediate sense of community with everyone I passed who wore a triangle. It was great!"

From 12:30 to 2 on Thursday afternoon, two hundred students, staff members and professors rallied in the center of the campus in support of gay rights. Fourteen speakers, representing minority groups, women, the Chaplain's Office and Hillel Foundation, and other student organizations, spoke in support of the bills and gay liberation.

A keynote of all the speeches was the unity of the struggle for human liberation by gays, minorities, and women. Typical was the declaration by Niyonu Payton, representing the Black Student Alliance at Yale: "As long as any one group is oppressed, we are all in trouble." The enthusiastic crowd was unusually diverse both ethnically and politically for a rally at Yale, and the rally received excellent local television coverage.

The week did encounter some resistance. Although more than 200 posters were put up around the campus, fewer than a dozen remained by Friday. The table cards disappeared from many dining hall tables, and in one dining hall, the manager refused to let organizers put them up. His refusal led to a front-page headline the next day: "Branford Hinders Gay Rights Group," and the embarrassed manager quickly relented.

For many, the most impressive part of the week was the Coalition which sponsored it. Included in the Coalition were groups representing Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Chicanos, Native Americans, Asian Americans, Jews, Lutherans, Episcopalians, the Univer-

sity Chaplain's Office, socialists, feminists, the student government, and gays.

If the week did nothing else, it changed the political status of gays on campus. As Coalition member Harry Scott said at the rally, "We will never again be seen as isolated and sick individuals, but as a minority group which has problems in common with other minority groups, which has been supported this week by other groups, and which is eager to support other groups in the future." The Chicano organization has already asked the Gay Alliance/Yalesians to co-sponsor a speech in the fall by a gay Chicano poet.

Important as well were the connections made as different groups joined to organize the week. White gays and Third World gays worked together for the first time; women and men shared the responsibility and direction of the campaign. And the consciousness raising which has gone in recent years — as gay people came out in their organizations and forced them to deal with the issue, or as gays came out to their friends — meant that scores of heterosexual people were willing to devote their time and energy to the project.

The saturation of the campus media and dining halls with information about Gay Rights Week led to hundreds of discussions about gay-related issues in the dining halls, classrooms, and student dorms. And although no one can yet assess the long-term impact of the week on student consciousness at Yale, it is clear that many individuals confronted their misconceptions and fears about homosexuality for the first time. Dozens of persons signing the petitions explained that they weren't going to initially, but were convinced by the information leaflet, or by discussions with friends.

The week seems to have changed the feelings of many gay students about their presence on campus. "I never would have believed so many straight students would take risks for us this way," commented one undergraduate. "I'm still not ready to 'come out' to most of my friends, but I feel much more comfortable." The week provided the occasion for many students to "come out" in their dorms or to friends. One Coalition organizer commented that "this week has had a much greater impact on the lives of individuals than I anticipated. We have made our presence known on campus in a way we never even conceived possible before, and many of our fears about coming out, both collective and individual, were disproved."

Leaders from a variety of groups agree that this week was the most significant political event of the year at Yale. One director of the Undergraduate Women's Caucus commented that she had "never seen so much positive energy invested in a single project at Yale," and there is already talk of repeating the week next year, when the Coalition might push for an anti-discrimination statement from the university.

As Tara Ayres, a Coalition spokesperson, noted, "The fact that we could do this here is only partially attributable to the recent history of Yale organizing; more importantly, it indicates the progress the movement has made nationally, and it ought to be possible elsewhere."

Leaders of the Coalition are compiling a booklet of all the literature and news stories related to the week, as well as a long article explaining how it was organized, to send to other campus gay organizations. Persons interested in the booklet should write to the Gay Alliance/Yalesians, Box 2031, Yale Station, New Haven, CT 06520, enclosing a dollar to cover costs.

Mass. Supreme Court Takes Up Harassment "Test Case"

BOSTON — The Massachusetts Supreme Judicial Court has, on its own motion, decided to take up the case of John Doe, convicted last Jan. 16, 1976 on charges of "soliciting to commit an unnatural act." The Court decided last week to take the case out of the hands of the Massachusetts Appeals Court, where it was resting after a Boston Superior Court jury had rejected an appeal in late March 1976.

One of the most controversial aspects of the case was the judge's decision to compel the defendant to pay "court costs" of \$500 and his denunciation of Doe for "slanderizing the police." City Corporation Counsel Herbert P. Gleason told GCN that the maximum fine for violation of the ordinance in question (Ord. 14, Sec. 311) is \$50.

The case, which involved a man arrested by an undercover police officer at Boston's Jolar Cinema, was widely viewed as a "test case" of harassment of gay men by the Boston Police Department. The case was taken up by the Civil Liberties Union of Massachusetts. "The issue here is whether or not cruising is legal," Evan Lawson, the defendant's lawyer, told GCN.

The Supreme Judicial Court is expected to decide whether police may arrest gay men in a cruising-type situation for "solicitation to commit an unnatural act." In the Balthazar decision, the Supreme Judicial Court ruled that an "unnatural act" is not a crime if it is done between consenting adults in private. In the John Doe case,

the Court may decide whether or not to widen the Balthazar decision to a "cruising situation" in a place like the Jolar Cinema.

The Supreme Judicial Court "can use this case as a vehicle to rule on

these questions or it can simply duck the issue," said lawyer Lawson.

Lawson is encouraged, however, that the Court decided to take the case "on its own motion." "Usually when they do this they intend to do some-

thing with the case. There's a good chance that they'll do something to change or clarify the law."

The Court is expected to take up the case within the next few months, although the exact date is unknown.



200-300 gay people demonstrated in front of the executive offices of the Singer Sewing Machine Company at Rockefeller Center on April 9. The demonstration, called by GAA/New York, was in protest of the company's decision to re-hire anti-gay crusader Anita Bryant to host its upcoming television show.

Photo by Robert Chesley

editorial

It Can Happen Here

The situation could just as easily have been like this: GCN or any other gay publication is found obscene, in violation of "community standards" of morality and decency in a small town or large town somewhere. The editor, the distributor, the typesetter, the publisher, the board of directors, and a lonely free-lance writer who wandered into the office once and dropped off a story are all indicted for conspiracy to publish and distribute an obscene publication. After a massive nine-week trial they are all found guilty.

That writer who wandered into the office one day is the equivalent of Harry Reems in the "Deep Throat" conspiracy case. Last week a federal judge ruled that Harry Reems — who was found guilty of conspiracy in Memphis last spring for a one-day stint of acting in "Deep Throat" — could have a new trial. The judge's decision was based, as Reems' lawyer Alan Dershowitz said, "on the narrowest grounds." What the judge ruled was that Reems' participation in "Deep Throat" had concluded before the US Supreme Court made its controversial decision allowing individual localities to enforce "community standards" regarding obscenity and pornography.

It is encouraging to see that Harry Reems will get a new trial; in fact, the government will probably not even prosecute him any further as anti-pornography

crusader Larry Parrish has left the Memphis federal prosecutor's office with the advent of Jimmy Carter and Griffin Bell. But what is distressing is that Judge Wallford did not even question whether an actor or writer in an obscenity conspiracy case could be named as part of the conspiracy. He ruled that Reems was convicted of something he did before the law went into effect, but the decision went no further.

The holding of massive conspiracy trials for pornography because some town somewhere decides that a publication violates its standards of decency is a frightening enough prospect in this country. But when a person who is only marginally involved with the entire business can be prosecuted for conspiracy and a judge does not rule that this kind of prosecution is wrong, it is even more terrifying. It may be, as Dershowitz argued, that the end result of a series of narrowly-based cases like this will be to discourage the government from further pornography witch-hunts. But no judge has yet said to the government, "You have gone too far; no actor or contributor can be held responsible for the work as a whole." Until this precedent is made clear, the civil liberties of every American — and especially those of contributors to the always vulnerable gay press — are in danger. It still can happen here.

community voice

in praise of providence

Dear GCN:

STOP! Before I hear another word panning last weekend's New England Gay Conference in Providence, R.I., I wish to voice a contrary opinion.

I met some Beautiful People in Providence, and felt it was well worth the trip. I must protest two misinformed articles in last week's GCN (4/16) and many negative opinion's expressed on WBUR's "Gayway."

I went with the hopes of meeting and being able to talk with a wide variety of people within the gay community. I had many issues in my head. I felt that I did meet a variety of people and was able to talk openly and honestly with many persons whom I would not have had the chance to meet otherwise.

The smallness of some workshops worked in their favor. In a workshop on "Feminism," we had a very enlightening discussion with more or less only a dozen participants. This was preceded by a presentation by a woman from the Lesbian Defense Fund, a group from Vermont which is touring the country trying to raise money for a child custody trial. This led right into the issues we wished to discuss.

A loose group of about eight of us then found our way to a workshop titled "Alternative Lifestyles/Rural Gays, Sexual Minorities, etc." This workshop was attended by about 40 people, and after a brief discussion of which issues interested us, we expressed our experience from the last workshop. By the time the substitute facilitator had arrived we were doing fine on our own, having split into three smaller groups, one discussing rural lifestyles, one sexual minorities, and one concerned with patterns of monogamy and also questions of racism in the community.

To take issue with GCN's coverage, this workshop did not endorse "fetishists and cultists." We had specifically wished *not* to label those of us with perhaps different attitudes, but wished to express support for differing viewpoints and lifestyles. More specifically, we were dealing with these issues: bisexuality, life in the straight world (yes, some of us have to earn a living), differing

age relationships, multiple relationships, pederasty and its female counterpart, and a minimal discussion of S&M. We also discussed alternatives to meeting in bars, and ways of meeting at all, for example, gay coffeehouses with gay entertainment and consciousness, emphasizing that that which we wish done, we must do for ourselves.

A caucus on Gays and Athletics, though attended by only two women and two men, discussed self-defense and also recreational facilities available for use by such groups as the Gay Recreational Activities Committee and/or women's and community groups.

In my mind, the Saturday night slide, film, cartoon and music presentation, followed by Jonathan Katz's excellent reading from his superbly researched book *Gay American History*, topped the weekend.

My only criticism is that I wish there had been more women in attendance, although I do not think this was the planners' fault, who were about half women.

But Eric Rogers claims (also GCN 4/16) "... one group that was somehow not represented was gay women."

I don't know — I was there, and as Sojourner Truth so aptly put it 100 years ago, "Ain't I a woman?" And if no one listens when I have something to say, I don't "walk out," I speak louder!!!

And this was the tone of the workshops and caucus which I attended. If it wasn't happening, we made it happen. We weren't waiting around to be spoon-fed politics.

I'm tired of criticism, whether it be of the MCC, or of atheistic anarchistic radicals. We need both. I had hoped that a tone of acceptance of our differences had come from this weekend, and from there even a stronger sense of community.

In revolt,

Ginny Hodgdon
Cambridge



who's to blame?

Dear GCN:

After reading Eric Rogers' "Speaking Out" (April 16, 1977), I feel compelled to reply because of his ignorance in regard to the New England Gay Conference.

Eric Rogers evidently failed to see Joseph Gilbert's apology in GCN's "Community Voice" on March 26, 1977. In his letter regarding the conference, Joseph Gilbert stated that "sisters and brothers from New England could give input in person and by mail." Joseph also stated that he had tried to reach gay Jewish groups to assist in the Ecumenical Service on Sunday evening, April 3rd at 7:00 to celebrate Passover. I volunteered and assisted in that service as a gay Jew.

In two consecutive issues of GCN (Feb. 19 and Feb. 26), in the articles and in the calendar, interested people were encouraged to send suggestions or attend the planning meeting for the New England Gay Conference. I was at that meeting and did not see Mr. Rogers. Including myself and Joseph Gilbert, only three other people attended that meeting.

As far as the conference being anti-feminist, Eric Rogers was probably sleeping through half of the workshops. The women had two workshops, "Stability and Movement of Roles Among Lesbians," and "Feminism"; the men only had one, "Stability and Movement of Roles Among Gay Men."

The conference may have been dominated by men because of the larger number of men who attended, but who's fault is it if the women do not attend? On two occasions I went to a predominately women's club and put up posters and hand-outs for the conference. If women do not wish to attend or participate in the conference, it is they who must take the blame for the lack of unity among gay women at the conference and in the community.

Mr. Rogers was also ignorant of the fact that preceding the conference, there was also a Symposium. Among the speakers were: Jean O'Leary, Rica Josephs and Rita Mae Brown. I mention this only to make everyone aware of the work entailed in the Symposium and conference. By Sunday night, everyone involved in the Symposium and conference was exhausted and I

must commend all those who devoted themselves and worked in preparation for the conference. This meant lack of sleep and missing meals because of the time spent in organizing, transportation and housing for 225 people from out-of-state.

I hope Eric Rogers will volunteer some of his time to next year's conference so that he will get better insight as to the work involved in planning a conference.

Sincerely,
Linda Sable

comical crabs

Dear Friends:

Thanks for your April Fools issue. It made us laugh. And one of my friends actually started to worry about those West Coast crabs until I told him to look at the date.

A Reader

supporting our supporters

President, Utica Club
West End Brewing Company
Utica, N.Y.

Dear Sir:

A couple of weeks back I was chatting with Skip Rosenthal at his newly opened Community Club in Boston on various and sundry and learned from him at that time that Utica Club was in the process of taking out an ad in Boston's Gay Community News — surely a remarkable act given the stature of the advertiser and the media/readership to which the promotion is directed.

As I turned the pages of the ninth of April issue of GCN I found staring at me a refreshingly enticing ad for a mug of Utica Club. It looks good...

Utica Club's decision to support the gay media and, through it, the gay community, is fantastic. I have always given preference to the small brewer (Rolling Rock, Genesee, Reading, Olympia, et al) and this alone would have oriented me in your direction; but — your progressive move to advertise and promote through the gay media/community (exclusively so in the northeast, I understand) is even more reason to support Utica Club in particular.

Now that Utica Club openly supports us by laying its dollars on the table I would hope that we can, in turn, support Utica Club by consuming as many "suds" as possible and within reason along with asking for it at the local package store and/or pub thus letting you know that your efforts in our behalf have been most worthwhile and your support greatly appreciated.

Sincerely yours,
Peter I. Roehm

gcn contributors

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COSMEP

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Opinions reflected in "editorial" represent the views of the editorial board. Signed letters and columns reflect the views and opinions of the authors only. Comments, criticisms, and information are always welcome from our readers: remember, it's YOUR paper!

Second-class postage paid at Boston, Mass. Annual subscription rate is \$15.00.

The first meeting to plan this year's Gay Pride Week in Boston will be held on Tuesday, April 19 at 7:30 p.m. at the Boston Advocates for Human Rights Office 73 Tremont Street, Room 224. Everyone is welcome and women and third world people are especially encouraged to participate.

listening to the gay goyim

To the Editor:

Nothing you wouldn't get if you dropped dead at The New England Gay Conference held at Providence last week.

Not a glass of water, believe me. Would you need it if you dropped dead amid the Metropolitan Community Church groupies gathered there to hear Father Malcolm Boyd pulpitize his latest book.

LIES!! LIES!! POPPYCOCK CRIES!!

Gave up a Passover seder to go to Rhode Island and listen to the gay goyim. I did, I did, honest to God I DID.

My mother said to me.

She said Fred Saturday night is the first night of Passover. The most important night since the Jews crossed the Red Sea chased by the Egyptians

No Ma. No I said it's the twentieth century and I'm going to the New England Gay Conference in Rhode Island with my yellow Fag Rags.

She said that's nice. Have a good time. And oh yes be sure and take a yarmulka and a box of matzos for our Christian friends.

I didn't bother to tell her that this wasn't a holy day gathering. What the hell I mused, what she doesn't know won't bother her.

But lo and behold the Saturday I was there was different than any other Saturday gay conference I ever attended.

Silver crosses among the Sycamores. IT rained too. Drizzled I should say. Showers, not golden. Kindergarten halos. Spaghetti, Oreo cookies, paste, pinup bulletin bores.

And not a sexually active rest stop all the way back to Boston. EGAD!

Gay solidarity. What?

Freddie Greenfield



blatant anti-semitism

Dear Sisters & Brothers:

As a gay Jew I was totally offended by the blatant anti-semitism expressed in the letter by John Mitzel (GCN, April 1, 1977). Apparently Mr. Mitzel approves the scheduling of a gay conference coinciding with the celebration of Passover. Mitzel is insensitive to the hundreds of thousands of Jewish lesbians and gay men who wish to celebrate the liberation of their ancestors from oppressors.

The Passover celebration is a symbol of Jewish liberation. Holding a gay conference during this celebration is not so bad, in my opinion, if a Passover seder feast is included. I myself attended a gay conference in Chapel Hill, North Carolina, during the first two days of the Passover, but provisions were made to have a gay seder for those who wished to observe this joyous feast commemorating the emancipation of the Jewish people.

Jews have a right to be proud of their heritage. All those who denounce this right, as Mitzel did, are terribly bigoted and hypocritical. I do not want to be a closet gay nor a closet Jew. As dedicated as I am to opposing homophobia and sexism, I equally oppose anti-semitism.

In Gay & Jewish Pride,

Mark N. Silber
Hollywood, Florida

no boycott

Dear GCN Readers:

Over the past few weeks, we here at the Boston Advocates for Human Rights office have been working very hard in defense of the Florida gay rights movement. We have tried to point out the importance of this struggle to the effort in Massachusetts to pass our gay rights bills and to the effort of the Gay Rights National Lobby. We have said that while Anita Bryant is a visible spokesperson for a right-wing hate campaign, she represents a movement that has deep roots and poses great dangers to human rights regardless of whether she leads it or not.

We have tried to explain that BAHR does not support the idea of a boycott of Florida industries or the firing of Anita Bryant from her jobs because of her anti-gay activities. Unfortunately, some people are not listening to us all that clearly.

Those who continue to talk of boycotting orange juice or Singer sewing machines are doing

so out of genuine feeling of disgust for Anita Bryant's prejudice and hate campaign. Our job in the gay community is to channel people's energy, which is at an all-time high, into a powerful movement that can defeat "Save Our Children, Inc." and guarantee our human rights.

We must direct our campaign in the same direction as Anita Bryant: toward the government. The Florida Citrus Commission cannot guarantee gay rights. Only the government is in a position to do so. They are under an obligation to do so, and if they shirk that duty, whether in Miami, Boston, or Washington, we must build a movement powerful enough to make them do so.

The proposed boycott of Florida orange juice does not answer that basic point. In fact, it lets the government off the hook and gives our opposition an issue to use against us: the whole business of Anita Bryant's "right of free speech."

Don't for one minute think that Anita Bryant can't turn the whole issue on its head. She has, and has gotten support for her "right of free speech and a job" against what she paints as a

giant conspiracy of gay activists out to get her. She has made herself a martyr to free speech while trying to destroy the rights of tens of thousands of Florida citizens.

We have to defeat Anita Bryant and "Save Our Children, Inc." politically and that means winning the majority of people to the side of human rights. We have to win and preserve our legal rights. We have to break through the lies and distortions carried by homophobes. Anita Bryant as a person, and her "rights," or her position with the Florida Citrus Commission, are all secondary to that struggle.

The boycott of Florida orange juice, while coming from genuine feelings, is basically a milky-liberal response to an issue that needs united, vocal, public action. BAHR is working on uniting as many civil rights activists as possible in a campaign to educate the public, gain access to the media, guarantee the passage of legislation, and raise funds to support the campaign in Miami. I urge you all to support BAHR.

Ken Withers

speaking out

By Nancy Walker

Eric Rogers' (v. 4, no. 42) disappointment at the New England Gay Conference's lack of "anger," among other things, is probably well-founded. I agree with him that we cannot afford to become complacent or beg, hat in hand, for "acceptance." It is more comfortable and emotionally satisfying to "demand" our rights, but to negotiate them is apt to be both more realistic and more successful.

Acceptance is a matter of concern to some gays, but not to others. I personally don't give a damn if I am accepted, "liked," or not. But I do want the same rights and privileges enjoyed (supposedly) by all full citizens of this country.

It seems to me that our ends are best served by concentrating our efforts on gay issues — on countering the silly, bogus, but dangerous arguments of Anita Bryant or the governor of New Hampshire, etc.; on educating the general public, government officials, the police and many misinformed and possibly self-hating gays about the realities of gay lifestyles and gay experience. We should be lobbying at the federal, state and local levels. There is no end to the concerns that demand our attention.

If we water down what could be our concerted strength by spreading our energies, as Rogers suggests, over the full spectrum of the oppressed and down-trodden — women, blacks, third-world, the poor, the aged — or work for every cause we consider just, and against every ism we consider unjust, we shall fail utterly at gay liberation.

With very few exceptions, none but gays will work tirelessly for our cause or to end our oppression. The socialists tolerate us, perhaps, but they will not go all-out for us. Does the third-world shout about its outrage over gay oppression? Does the women's movement place gay liberation at the head of its list of top priorities? Certainly not. The blacks do not carry "gay is good" banners in their hearts on parade.

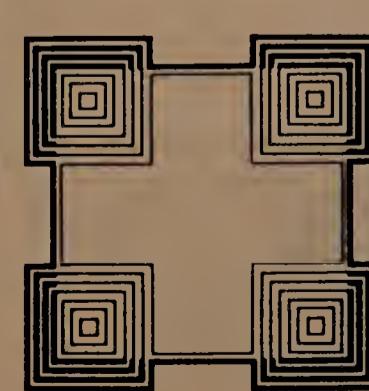
Though we should and do sympathize with others who are oppressed, we must understand that they are not oppressed in the same ways as we are or for the same reasons. Certain common factors in all oppression should not blind us to this fact. The white macho male may be seen as central to all oppression in our society, but he is only one element, and his is an image we can all fight in our own ways, to suit our own needs. It would indeed be helpful if all oppressed groups would band together for common cause, but that is not going to happen. In such a combination, it would be gays who are short-changed, as we always have been, so it is up to us to use our abilities and strength to fight our own battles, since no one else is likely to do it with us or for us.

To name religion and capitalism primary enemies, as Rogers does, is to be naive and simplistic. There is great evil in the Church, yet there are good people who believe in it, and many of its tenets can be used for good or ill simply by shifting emphasis or changing interpretation. There is great evil in capitalism, yet there are capitalists who have done great good, and the system itself can be a vehicle for good or ill, depending always on the intentions of the people using it.

To replace the church with nothing, and capitalism with socialism, communism or anarchy is to reshuffle the evils, not to get rid of them. Our oppression is caused by many complex factors residing deep in the psyche of industrialized, culture-bound humanity. Therefore, to succeed, liberation must be a process, and by its very nature, process takes time.

There are no easy answers. We must keep alive our anger at injustice and kowtow to no one; we must work for gay issues; we must learn from our mistakes; we must be willing to listen to one another; and we must acquire both wisdom and patience.

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Pennsylvania Transvestite Fights Firing

By Janet Cooper

LANCASTER, PA — "DO NOT TOUCH. THIS FLAGPOLE IS ELECTRICALLY CHARGED." Two flag poles frame the path to the door of the Treadway Inn of Lancaster, Pa., an affiliate of the white middle class credit card Motel Chain. On one flag pole is the American flag; from the other flies the Bicentennial flag. Strait is the gate at Treadway.

Bill Horn is a male to female transvestite. When Treadway management hired Bill Horn, they knew that Bill was a sexual minority member. Now that same management has found Bill's work unsatisfactory. They fired him.

On Feb. 17, 1977, there was a hearing about Bill's case. The flak-catcher representing management was acting general manager, Pat Dahn. She would never need a straight back chair to have perfect posture. She sat as if she never knew what dancing, rhythm, undulation, fucking, shuddering, pissing, and shitting felt like. She looked like she wouldn't have enjoyed any of those experiences anyway.

In the armament of bureaucratic weaponry came written notices. Bill had received three:

FIRST WRITTEN NOTICE

CHARGE: 1) Using a room without permission from the Department Head.

REBUTTAL: Bill had asked the motel desk clerk for a key in order to change clothes. He did not use the bed. He did not use the bathroom. He did

not even put anything down on the bed.

SECOND WRITTEN NOTICE

CHARGE: 2) It is the policy of the company that any employee who is not working should not be on the property without the permission of the Department Head. When permission has been granted proper conduct and attire should be observed at all times.

REBUTTAL: Bill was invited to attend a formal dinner dance in drag at the Treadway on Jan. 23. On Jan. 14, Bill discussed the invitation with his supervisor. Bill's Department Head was in training in New Jersey the 16-25. Therefore, Bill did not have a chance to discuss his invitation with her.

WARNING: On Jan. 26, the same day Bill had worked 16½ hours, he received his second written notice.

THIRD WRITTEN NOTICE

CHARGE: 3) Failure to report to work on time.

REBUTTAL: On Jan. 26 Bill had worked 16½ hours. On Jan. 27, Bill overslept. Bill was shaving when the phone rang. The call was from Bill's Department Head telling him that he was late to work. Bill does not have a car. Buses run every two hours and twenty minutes and therefore he had to call a cab which ride costs \$1.70. Bill earns \$2.50 an hour. After Bill was dressed, he had to wait an additional twenty minutes for the taxi. As a result, Bill arrived at work three hours late.

ADDENDUM

BUREAUCRATIC HASSLE: Hotel lawyers contacted the Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bar Tenders Local 397 Feb. 19. The Treadway lawyers told the Union as per to go to his Union steward. He in turn had 48

hours to arrange a meeting between Treadway management and Bill. Then they all had 5 days to submit a written complaint. Because Bill's complaint was dated Feb. 11, eleven days had passed since Treadway Management had fired Bill. Therefore Bill had gone 3 days over the time limit when he could by union contract submit a complaint in writing.

RESULT: Neither Treadway Management nor the Hotel & Restaurant Employees & Bar Tenders Local 397 had been at all interested in helping Bill retain his job. Currently Bill Horn is on welfare.

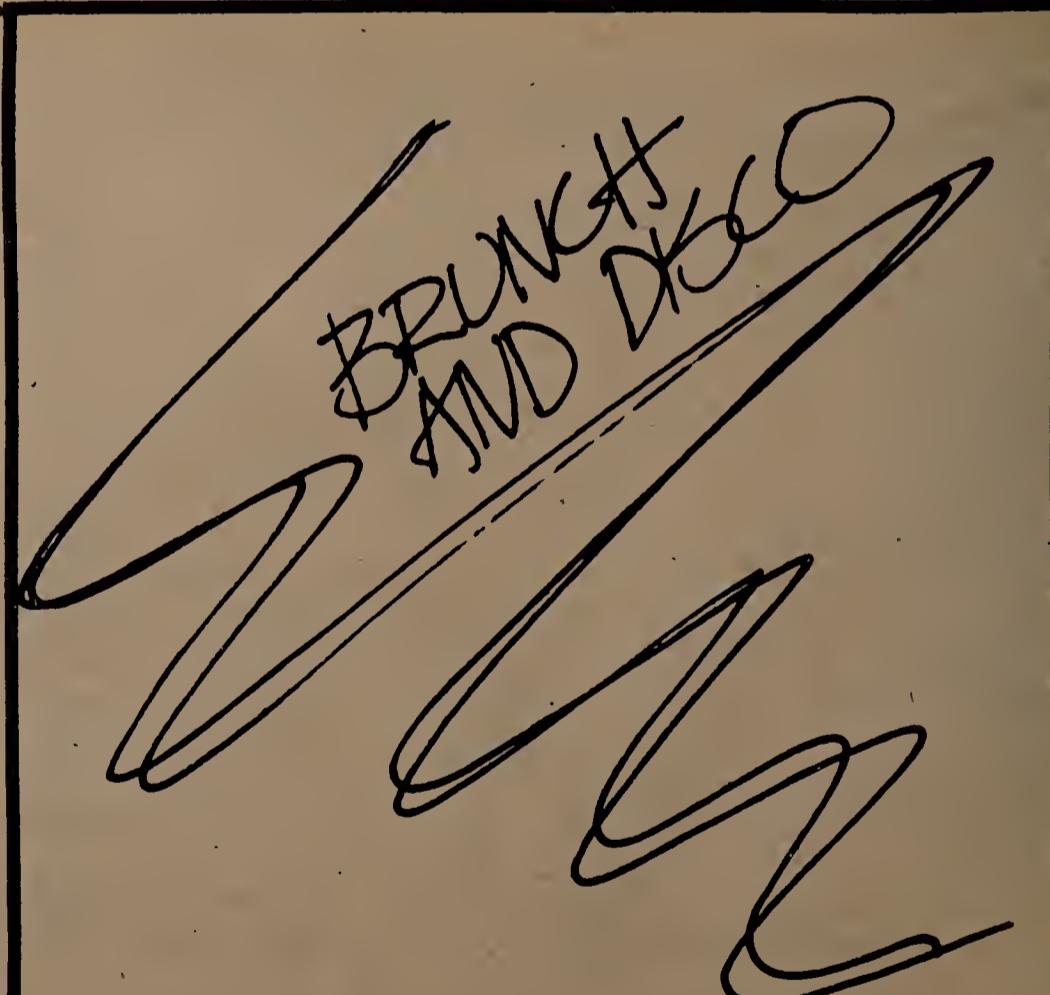
Such formal bureaucratic maneuvers leave no opportunity to list the compliments the patrons of Treadway gave Bill on his conscientiousness with style. He had helped set up weddings, banquets, dinner dances, exclusive financial wheeler-dealer meetings, cocktail parties, political dinners for state officials, so smoothly and beautifully that he often received rounds of applause. Indeed, frequently, mothers of the bride would offer Bill pieces of the wedding cake.

Any minority person knows instinctively that when management presents such petty reasons for firing someone, that management is looking for an excuse to get rid of us. While Treadway doesn't mind minority money spent in their bars, restaurants, and motel rooms, they do seem to mind employing us.

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Gay Rights Week at Yale, held April 4-8, came at the perfect time to usher in a new era of support badly needed to counteract the depressing defeat we received recently in the state legislature. No one is planning to give up the struggle for equal rights, but an infusion of new, excited, willing-to-work blood is definitely needed if we are to remain a strong, growing community. Yale's Gay Rights Week helped give strength to all of us who were involved, letting us know that we are not alone and that we are not — in any way — ready to give up. Especially exciting was the fact that the whole concept of the week was the brainstorm of one person whose ideas and enthusiasm spread throughout the Yale community, unifying all of the campus' minority groups and creating in hundreds of people an awareness of gay oppression and a willingness to chance criticism and even physical abuse in order to do something to end such oppression. The irony of the week, however, is that even now the person who began it all is afraid to let his name be used in connection with the week. And so, I must thank him anonymously for giving all of us a much-appreciated boost. Hopefully someday his all-too-justified fears will join the pink triangle in the annals of our past.

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Talking Politics

By David Brill

There is as much fascination among humans with the dates of certain occurrences (in relation to other dates) as there is with the events themselves. In other words, publications short on copy sometimes revert to "On this day in history" and "Where are they now?" features to fill up space.

As good a lead as any, I would say, is a "One Year Later" assessment of Boston Mayor Kevin White's executive order banning discrimination on the basis of sexual preference in city employment. It was a year ago this month that Hizzoner repaid the political debt he incurred to Elaine Noble during the previous year's tumultuous re-election campaign. "Sexual preference" discrimination in city employment was now punishable by removal of the responsible department head, and the Mayor's Office of Human Rights was charged with enforcement.

The mayor has acknowledged that the order was a largely symbolic one,

and not simply because there had never been anti-gay discrimination reported from any of the 22,000 city (including Suffolk County) employees. As Rep. Barney Frank quite correctly noted at the time, public employees are already amply protected by both Civil Service laws and union regulations. (Frank has said that getting rid of a public employee is like "trying to defrock a cardinal.")

But the White order was good because it showed the people of Boston — and the nation — that the city does give a damn about gay people. Gay people don't have very much to call their own. In Boston, gays are largely rent-payers. With rare exception, their bars are straight-owned, even if gay-run. What attention is paid to gays by the city is usually in the form of harassment: Project Lambda had its funding swept away, Gay Health Night was threatened with extinction, and about 100 men have been arrested by police on "The Block" in the last five



Mayor Kevin White

months.

But Kevin White would now see that even this scintilla of prestige, this pitance of pride be abolished. In the name of fiscal austerity, the mayor has proposed the elimination of at least ten city agencies under his 1978 budget, including — you guessed it — the Mayor's Office of Human Rights.

Swept away — hardly in Wermuller's style — along with Little City Halls, Summerthing, and the Youth Activities Commission, to name a few, the Human Rights Office was the only agency in the city that gay people could legitimately turn to for assistance. It is a damnable suggestion, and it hardly takes political x-ray vision to see what the mayor has up his sleeve in proposing it. Clearly, he is hoping that the massive public outcry against these budget cuts will pressure the Legislature into accepting some of his 1977 tax program to provide new — and needed — revenue for the city.

But the ends are not justified by the means. The mayor is gambling with the welfare of the entire city with this ploy. It is but the latest in a series of despicable acts by the mayor that began when he escorted Bob diGrazia out of the police commissioner's office in October. One can only wonder how the mayor will ask for gay votes in 1979.

Another type of commemoration is that of "The First 100 Days" of a new President's term, a concept popular-

BAHR Beefs Up \$ Drive

BOSTON — Contributions to the fight to defend Florida's gay rights law against Anita Bryant and "Save Our Children, Inc." continue to keep coming in to the office of the Boston Advocates for Human Rights (BAHR).

BAHR representatives at the New England Gay Conference were able to sign up dozens of volunteers and made contacts in Provincetown, Providence, Salem and other towns in New England. Contributions of \$50 or more were given by a number of individuals and organizations, and a check for \$100 was received from the Regency Health Center. Dignity of Boston sent a \$200 check directly to the Dade County Coalition for the Humanistic Rights of Gays in Miami.

BAHR Fundraiser Bill Byard and his committee are planning a number of fundraising events over the next two months, which began with last week's opening of the office at 73 Tremont Street. Over three hundred invitations have been sent to groups and individuals in the gay, women's, civil rights and religious movements, as well as to civil rights supporters that BAHR hopes to get involved in their efforts. Over the next few weeks, plans will be formulated for benefits at various bars, a rally on May 20, and perhaps events at the Aquarium or the Back Bay Railroad Station.

BAHR member Peter Maroon is working on plans for an East Coast speaking tour covering Boston, Hartford, New York, New Jersey, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Washington, Greenville and Chapel Hill, N.C., Atlanta, Jacksonville, and finally Miami. The speaker or team would be

attending meetings held by Florida support groups in all these cities, collecting endorsements and funds for the Florida defense.

At a BAHR steering committee meeting last Thursday night, a statement was adopted criticizing the abolition of the Office of Human Rights in Boston due to budget considerations. The group made the analogy to the Florida situation, where the gay rights law may be repealed because the county says it would cost too much to hold the presently scheduled June 7 referendum. The abolition of the Office of Human Rights "takes the teeth out of recent anti-discrimination executive orders regarding hiring and job protection on the basis of sexual orientation," the statement said.

In other action, the committee noted that people have been so enthusiastic about the Florida defense campaign that they have gone out on their own and tried to negotiate fundraising benefits or endorsements from groups without consulting the BAHR office. Because of confusion arising from that, BAHR representatives will have letters of introduction from the BAHR steering committee if they are going to be talking to any business or group.

The next BAHR steering committee meeting will be held the week of April 17. The meetings are open to all, and one can get exact dates and times by calling the BAHR office at 742-4811 or by dropping by at 73 Tremont Street, Room 224. Donations to the cause can be sent to BAHR, Box 2232, Boston, MA 02107.

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ized by Franklin D. Roosevelt. It is worth looking at Jimmy Carter's first 100 days in office with a gay perspective:

- Margaret Costanza, veteran gay rights supporter from Rochester (NY), and Marilyn Haft, co-author of *The Rights of Gay People* and former ACLU lawyer, have been named to the White House staff.

- Gay discharges from the military are likely to be included in the President's revised pardon plan.

- The State Department has lifted its restrictions against the employment of known gay people.

- Jean O'Leary, co-executive director of the National Gay Task Force and former leader of New York's Lesbian Feminist Liberation, was appointed to the National Commission on the Observance of International Women's Year.

- There have been several meetings between gay people and the White House staff to discuss ways to make certain federal agencies more responsive to gay concerns.

That is surely an impressive compilation of achievements, and while admittedly it's "no cause for cheering," there can be no doubt that it is a cause for optimism. It certainly should go a long way to convince the editors of the *Gay Lutheran*, which endorsed Gerald Ford last year, and *The Advocate*, which did a gushy feature on Republicans and then endorsed nobody (same as endorsing Ford), that gay people can rightly expect a lot more good from the Carter Administration than any other.

Having voted Democratic last year somewhat hesitantly, I am more than a little relieved over the direction which the new administration is taking. While the President's admonitions about "living in sin" are enough to nauseate even the most proper Bostonians, here's betting that should it ever come to a real showdown between Jimmy and The Sinners, Jimmy will give in.

It's because politicians need to be watched closely that we will always have to look at Kevin White "one year later," and Jimmy Carter's "First 100 Days."

Green Mountain Gays Plan Weekend

BURLINGTON, VT — Following on the success of its "On Becoming" weekend of 1976, the Gay Student Union at the University of Vermont is presenting a weekend of speakers and workshops on April 22-24. Entitled "Green Mountain Gay Weekend," it will encompass a wide range of activities to increase its participants' awareness of the problems that gays in Vermont and our society face, as well as possible solutions to them. In addition, the G.S.U. weekend will also serve as an occasion to celebrate the accomplishments and creativity of gay people in the Vermont area.

Rita Mae Brown, author of *Rubyfruit Jungle* and *In Her Day*, will keynote the conference along with Bruce Voeller, co-director of the National Gay Task Force. Both speakers will make their keynote addresses in Carpenter Auditorium, Given Medical Building on Friday, April 23, at 8:30 p.m. Admission will be free for students and a charge of \$1 will be made for non-students. In addition to their keynote addresses, Brown and

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R.I. Man Slain In Grisly Murder

WARWICK, RI — Two Providence men have been arrested in connection with the murder of a 56-year-old gay man here on April 9. Douglas C. Massey was discovered beaten and stabbed more than 20 times with a meat fork at his Warwick home on that date.

Massey's body was found sprawled in a corner of his one-room shoreline cottage on Harris Avenue by a

neighborhood child at 9:45 a.m. The police believe that the death occurred late Friday evening.

Robert A. Petice, 22, of Providence, was arrested on Sunday, April 10, by Providence police and was returned for arraignment in Warwick District Court. A second suspect was apprehended but GCN was unable to learn his name before we went to press.

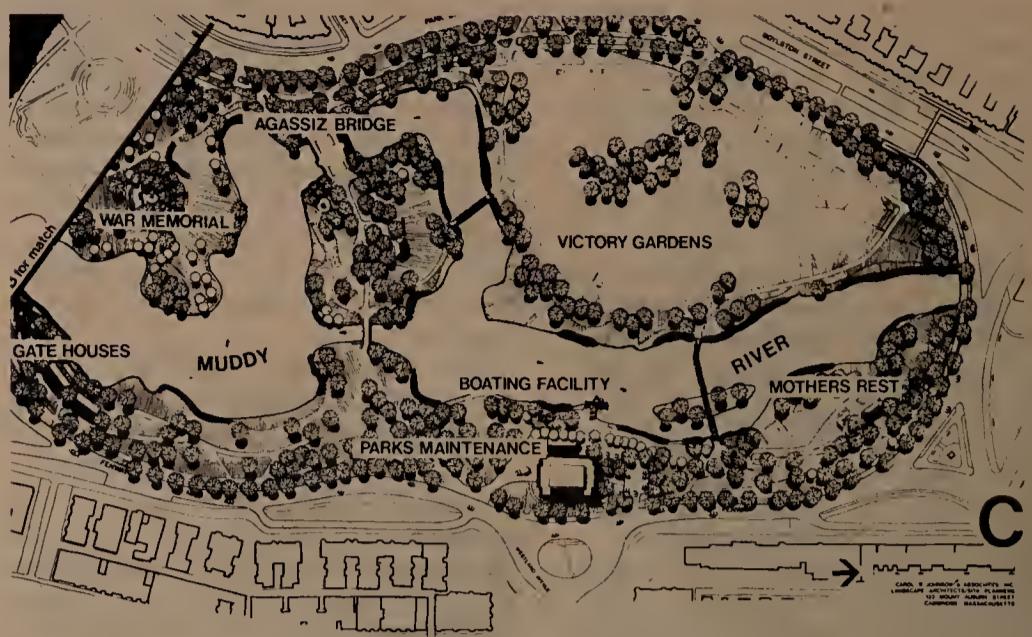
DID YOU SEE?

THE NEW REPUBLIC



"It seems as though there is no connecting principle, however strained and unlikely, around which people are not willing to organize themselves. For example, the other day I met a charming woman who was very excited because she had just spent three hours at the White House. She was one of 10 people who had been invited to talk about gay rights with Midge Costanza, a presi-

dential assistant whose job is to provide access to the White House for people with complaints who have taken the trouble to organize themselves into a group. (And who has not?) This woman was not herself gay; she was there as representative of a national organization of parents of homosexuals. I thought that was a pretty good granfalloon until I opened the *Times* the next day and discovered a list of several organizations — in the New York area alone — of women who have given birth by Caesarean section. Perhaps someone should start a group of parents of homosexuals born by Caesarean section. — from MEK's "Washington Diarist" which appeared in *The New Republic*, April 9, 1977.



THE FENWAY GETS A FACE-LIFT: The above map shows the reconstruction of the Boston Back Bay Fens planned for this summer. The Boston Public Facilities Department plans to spend \$150,000 on the landscape and clearance project in the Northeast Fens, the first phase of a multi-million dollar "master plan" for the entire area. Among the planned addition to the gay male cruising area will be lights and pavement; on the debit side is a proposed loss of much of the reeds. Contracts are expected to be let for bid, and work to begin about the first of June.

GAY LEGISLATION '77 IN MASSACHUSETTS NEEDS SUPPORT

H.3677 General Discrimination

This bill would make discrimination in employment, housing, mortgages, bonding, credit, public accommodations and union membership on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

H.3676 Discrimination in Civil Service

More limited than H.3677, this bill would make discrimination in state civil service employment on the basis of sexual orientation illegal.

H.3751 Consenting Adults Bill

This bill would stipulate that a person could not be found guilty of violating Massachusetts' 17th century anti-sex laws unless the act was committed in public and/or by force.

What YOU Can Do: Write, Call & Visit

The most realistic way for most people to affect the vote of their legislators is to write them a personal letter. As many as six letters on any one issue is considered a landslide by most state legislators, so your letter does count.

Of critical importance is that people from all parts of the state write to their legislators and that the writers are informed on the issue.

To find out who your state legislators are: Each voter has one State Representative and one State Senator. To find out their names, first call your city or town clerk or elections commission and ask for the ward and precinct number for the address at which you are registered to vote (or if not yet registered in Massachusetts, at which you live). They may also be able to tell you who your legislators are. If not, call the Voter Information Phone (1-800-882-1649) toll free; in the Boston area call 357-5880 from 9 a.m.-3 p.m., or the House Clerk (617-727-2356) from 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

What to say: Refer to the bills by number plus short title and ask for a vote in favor and a reply to your letter. State your feelings honestly but don't get defensive or offensive. Be brief and concise. Many non-gay people are supporting this legislation, so your letter

of support will not identify your sexual orientation. Letters needn't be "professional," in fact, plain, honest letters are the best.

Address your letter to: The Hon. _____, State House, Boston, Ma. 02133. Begin the letter "Dear Senator _____" or "Dear Representative _____".

Get others to write. Most people will find this a simple yet effective way to show their support, whether they are gay or straight.

A visit to your legislator is the ultimate in effectiveness. It is best to make an appointment. Those from outside the Boston area usually have an office in their districts. To reach your State Senator call (617) 727-2455; State Representative call (617) 727-2424.

MONEY, VOLUNTEERS

The lobbying effort is expensive and we need money to support it. If you can contribute please make checks payable to "LEGISLATION" and forward to Legislation, P.O. Box 8841, J.F.K. Station, Boston, Ma. 02114. We also need volunteers.

If you are a member of a Gay Group pass this info. along to the group. And to as many people as possible.

Important People to contact: Do you know anyone in the following towns?

If you know anyone in the following towns with the following Senators please contact them and have them contact their senator.

Senator Boverini— Lynn, Lynfield, Marblehead, Nahant, Swampscott.

Senator Bulger— Allston-Brighton, Back Bay, Beacon Hill, Bay Village, South Boston, South End.

Senator Lewis— Jamaica Plain, West Roxbury, Dedham, and Westwood.

Senator Saltonstall— Andover, Boxford, Danvers, Essex, Georgetown, Gloucester, Ipswich, Manchester, Newbury, Rockport, Rowley, Topsfield, North Reading, Reading, Hamilton, and Wenham.

Senator Wetmore— Athol, Barre, Brookfield, Charlton, East Brookfield, Hardwick, New Braintree, North Brookfield, Petersham, Phillipston, Royalston, Spencer, Sturbridge, Templeton, Warren, West Brookfield, Winchendon. Franklin County: New Salem, Orange. Hampden County: Brimfield, East Longmeadow, Hampden, Holland, Monson, Palmer, Wales, Wilbraham. Hampshire County: Belchertown, Ware.

LEGISLATION COMMITTEE PHONES:

Office: 742-4811

Rep. Noble's Aides: 727-2584

Office Address: Room 224, 73 Tremont St., Boston, Ma. 02108

Happy Endings

By Unsigned

I thought I'd share how I told my parents with the readers.

I came out in 1973 at college. I bought a book *Our Bodies Ourselves* and read the chapter called "In Amerika They Call Us Dykes." I felt that they were writing about me. I wrote to an organization in that chapter asking if there were any gay organizations in my college town. I felt as if I were the only gay person.

I was living in a house with seven other girls, all straight. It was hard to keep my gayness to myself because I was getting attached to one of my roommates. The group wrote back and gave me the name of two lesbians in my area. I wrote to them and went to meet them. It was strange because I didn't know what to say. Probably they felt strange, too.

One woman was working at the Women's Center and the other was a student at my school. We went around together for a while, but when the winter came, our friendship faded out. One moved away and the other still kept in touch with me, but all we had in common was our lesbianism. She was more of an activist and I am quiet and shy. But we got along until summer came and school was over for the year.

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During the summer one of my friends wrote and told me that there was going to be a Lavender Jane concert in Boston. I wanted to go but I was afraid to go alone. Finally, I told my best friend that I was gay and asked her to go with me. At first she hesitated, but then she said yes. My father drove us to the church where the concert was being held. He didn't know what kind of concert we were going to. We were late and had to stand up against the wall, but I thought it was wonderful because I had never seen so many lesbians. Later that summer my best friend came out, with my help.

I told my father what kind of concert it was and that I was gay, but nothing bothers him. I was really happy that he took it so calmly.

Then I met my lover. I grew attached to a straight woman that was on the softball team with me that summer. We started spending a lot of time together and one night we stayed up all night at her apartment talking. I told her that I was gay and she said, "Yes, so."

Eventually, the girl with the apartment told me that she had feelings for me, too. We both never experienced lesbian sex. She was straight as far as she knew until she met me. Needless to say I spent the rest of the summer with her, only going home for supper. After

work, she would come to my house and have supper and then we'd go to her house and spend the rest of the night at her apartment. My mother was sick of taking phone messages for me so we had to cut down seeing each other from seven to five nights a week. But sometimes I would sleep there and sneak back in the house before my mother got up for work. My mother started asking me where I had been and I told her I had a friend. The summer passed pleasantly and then I went back to college.

Then all the trouble started. I got mono and strep throat and I spent most of the fall in the hospital. My lover took care of me and when I was recuperating she came to stay at my house several times. Finally my mother asked her to move in with us. I thought it was great, at first. But every time someone came in the room, my lover and I had to jump apart. We just couldn't be as free as we would have liked.

I wanted to tell my mother at Christmas of 1975. My father and lover told me to wait until after the holidays. I waited and waited. In April I still hadn't told my mother and there was a TV special on lesbians one night. My mother came into the room and started to watch it. She made a face and I asked her what was wrong. She said, "Nothing." I said, "I don't see anything wrong with it." Then she said, "I know two girls who live together." The program was very educational to all three of us.

About a month later I said to my family, "Let's have a family discussion." My father and lover knew immediately what I wanted to say. I said, "Ma, remember that program a few weeks ago about those two women. Well, my lover and I are gay."

She looked at me and started to cry. I told her that it wasn't her fault; she didn't do wrong. I was happy and content this way, I told her. We went into the kitchen, both of us still crying. She asked me, "Why didn't you tell me before?" I told her that I wanted to, but my lover and father said not to.

That night she said she was going to move out. I told her that we would move out. She said, "It's your house." I said, "It's your house, too. We'll move out."

She didn't move out and after a few days she got used to seeing us holding hands and sitting close together. Now she is great about it. I have my gay friends over and they call her Ma and my father Dad. Ma makes cakes and cupcakes for them. They get along great and we can talk openly in front of my mother as if she were one of us.

The funny thing is that my 19-year-old brother is gay, too, but they don't know it yet.

My lover has been with us for two years. My advice to you is to come out and tell your parents. If they really love you, it won't matter if you're gay. You'll all feel better in the end.

Florida Defeat May Doom National ERA

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — The Florida State Senate dealt the Equal Rights Amendment a severe setback last week as it defeated the Equal Rights Amendment by a 21-19 vote. Proponents of the ERA now fear that

unless there is a major change in the make-up of Southern legislatures in the 1978 elections, the ERA will be doomed.

"All the action now goes to the '78 election," said Sheila Greenwald, executive director of ERA America. Greenwald said that Southern state elections would become the group's next target, as none of the Southern states are among the 35 that have already ratified the amendment. Three more states must approve the ERA by March 1979 to make it the 27th Amendment to the United States Constitution.

The issue of homosexuality played a

large role in the emotional debate in the Florida legislature. Senator Alan Trask, a strong opponent of the ERA, read Bible verses from Leviticus during the debate. The verses assert that homosexuality is a sin. "We must never pass a law that is contrary to the teachings of God," said the senator.

Last minute telephone calls from the White House proved of little avail in salvaging the ERA in Florida. "I'm distressed; it's horrible," said Mark A. Siegal, an aide to President Carter. "We should not have lost North Carolina or Florida. But I'm still optimistic that we will pass the ERA."

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"O you whom I often and silently come where you are that I may
be with you,
As I walk by your side or sit near, or remain in the same room
with you,
Little you know the subtle electric fire that for your sake
is playing within me."



Don Hanover and

"Passing stranger! you do not know
You must be he I was seeking . . ."



"As Adam early in the morning,
Walking forth from the bower refresh'd with sleep,
Behold me where I pass, hear my voice, approach,
Touch me, touch the palm of your hand to my body as I pass,
Be not afraid of my body."

Don C. Hanover's collection of photographs at the GCN Gallery at 259 Newbury St. is an exhibition of his work. Mr. Hanover's photos have appeared well as in other publications, and we are pleased to present some from his current exhibition.

Suzanne Fox's Silent Stories

By Arlene Silva

In this loud, panicky society many prefer to have music and other random sounds sift into their lives to provide a mood or more often a distraction. We forget that silence also provides an environment: one of attentiveness and magic. Coupled with space, stillness can dominate energy and present themes that lend themselves to our more subtle sensibilities — this is mime. Through it we can watch bits of our emotional metamorphosis and delight in the miracle of human movement. Humanness is its basic element. Point zero: quiet, a form, and from mime emits the infinite possibilities that build movement on movement to create the succession called life. It demands returning to the self, to innocence and a portrayal of situations as if all the particulars were completely unknown to the viewer. There are no props but the muscular versatility of the human form. Mime is the one art that truly proves we can be all things.

Suzanne Fox attempted this in her "First Impressions" at the Boston College of Art, performed March 28th. In conjunction with the "We Tickle The Earth's Belly" mime troupe Ms. Fox presented a series of original works. Having been married and divorced, Suzanne throbs with attitudes of strength, liberation and equality. She believes the power relationship needs to be evened out and seeks to supply alternatives. Assisted by only women, she keeps to her ideas of a much-needed freedom and partial, if not total, alienation from the male-dominated world of mime.

A good part of her repertoire clearly showed that she shared a taste for the classic with her former teacher, Marcel

Marceau. "The Master and the Puppet" is one such piece. It depicts a moment in the monotonous life of a marionette forced into repetitious routine by her master and the strings that bind her to him. Discovering the source of her bondage she cuts away and enjoys a brief period of freedom before returning, disheartened, to her inescapable dependence on the puppet master.



The journey from birth to old age is another classic theme. Ms. Fox variates on this with the assistance of Shannon Sullivan, actress-turned-mime. In "Friends" Suzanne and Shannon portray two women and the chronological evolution of their lifelong relationship. Shannon Sullivan, as co-mime, displays extraordinary promise and ability. Her technique is crisp and defined. You are not in doubt as to what she's doing for one moment. She

outdoes herself at the end of the piece, portraying an aging woman in a wheelchair reminiscing with her old friend. Her face mirrors good times past. Ms. Sullivan created the wheelchair prop so believably the audience broke through with laughter and applause.

One disturbing factor was that disillusionment and suicide seemed to be constants in the performance. Out of 13 skits, 8 ended this way. The points were well taken but I wanted to see her develop the idea of promise and success as she did in "The Audition" and "Leaving the Nest."

"Cry of the Wolves" was the one work in which disillusionment was very apropos to its theme of rape. Not a classic theme, it unfortunately attempted to cover too much political/cultural material: the woman as a victim of rape and the subsequent humiliation and rejection. Her lover scorns her, the courts prosecute in favor of the criminal. The effort to relate such a vast and complex theme clearly requires a clear-cut break between each of the characters involved. In mime when one person portrays many, the movement and attitudes of each character need to be precise so the audience doesn't get confused or lost. As in some of the other pieces there were moments when the illusion was temporarily broken by the lack of definition and poor technique. Luckily Suzanne Fox's enthusiasm and energy overshadowed these failings. She continued, as any experienced performer would have, with the overall picture, though elements in it might have been weak. I was pleased to have the issue of rape incorporated into mime. It is a valid one, but a tighter



choreography would have done greater justice to such a complex plot.

My first impressions were that Suzanne Fox is eager and devoted to her craft, that she wants desperately to get her points across. This same desperate enthusiasm can sometimes get in the way of a strong presentation. It hurries the body in an art where each movement needs to be painstakingly isolated for adequate clarity. At times the power of certain pieces is dissipated by a vague technique, though Ms. Fox ultimately always made up for herself. It's obvious that she's a voracious worker who'll let nothing stand in her way, that she wants the recognition she deserves. Her development of the feminist issue leans heavily on heterosexuality. To my disappointment there was no mime that was solely devoted to love between women. Even in the "Closet," which I must admit I couldn't follow, the two women

The Body Electric

now how longingly I look upon you,



"...I am silent, and go bathe and admire myself.
Welcome is every organ and attribute of me, and of any man
hearty and clean,
Not an inch nor a particle of an inch is vile, and none shall be
less familiar than the rest."



graphs of the nude and nearly nude at BOS
rienced exploration of "the body electric."
frequently in the Gay Community News, as
're pleased to present a random selection

"Publish my name and hang up my picture as
that of the tenderest lover..."

The poetic commentary is courtesy of Mr. Walt Whitman

ARMATRADING: "SIT BACK AND SEE"

By Steve Blevins

Seeing Joan Armatrading at the Orpheum after sitting through two point-less sets by "white rock" bands, was an experience well worth the amplified egocentricity that preceded it. Her performance was a sterling validation of the work she's recorded so far. Ms. Armatrading's third album provided her with the hit single "Love and Affection," which, with its unique phrasing and intelligent production, opened many ears to what this talented woman offers. From her opener at the Orpheum, "Join the Boys" to her encore, "Back to the Night," she proved herself to be an artist of astonishing capabilities.

With her upfront attitude and flashing eyes, Ms. Armatrading demonstrated how important a performer's stage presence is to the quality of a concert. When she performed with her band — a sensitive, tightly co-ordinated group of male musicians — it was as if she were conducting them with her unpredictably flexible voice and

crafted guitar work. When she sent the band off-stage to perform two solo numbers, the vast interior of the Orpheum took on the atmosphere of a living room, and resonated with the deep, full chords of her piano. Her rendition of "Dry Land" from her first album, *Back to the Night*, was a poetic fusion of music and lyrics that achieved an intimate tone too often sacrificed to confessionalism by other singers. The two solos were definitive examples of Ms. Armatrading's serious commitment to the *creation* of music, and an exhilarating reminder of how good musicians can arouse one's emotions. Her music is a music of communication and rapport. Her refreshing lack of pretension allowed her to stop a song she felt began badly, and begin it again. Let's see Dylan do that. Though her voice bears a distant resemblance to Odetta's and Nina Simone's, don't let the media fool you into believing she's the "black Joni Mitchell" or the "female Van Morrison" — she defies such comparisons.

For gay people she represents a particularly pleasant alternative to dogmatically heterosexual pop music. Her songs deal with self-sufficiency, and her struggles as a black woman. It's to her credit that she's avoided the liberal labels suggested by articles in *Ms.* and *Rolling Stone*. In the song "Give It a Try" on her second album *Whatever's For Us* (co-written by Pam Nestor) she says: "Brothers I have tried and cried / Tried it your way / Now I'll do it my way." In the title cut she sings: "Do what you will / Say what you must / Cause whatever's for us, for us." These attitudes characterize the distinctive personality that's at the heart of her work. From the beautiful "Somebody Loves You" to the angry "Tall in the Saddle" on *Joan Armatrading*, to her solo guitar-and-vocal pieces on *Whatever's For Us*, she sings and plays with soul-felt expertise. Surprise yourself with any of her three excellent recordings, and as she says in "City Girl": "Don't take my word / Just sit back and you'll see . . ."



driving to come together eventually
end up having to bitterly accept the
act they must go their own way.

I realize that I have been wholly
critical and selfish with my praise. I
also acknowledge walking into the
show with high expectations of this
woman mime. As a closet mime I want
to see women osmose into mime as
androgenously as the art form itself
and become recognized for their
merits. This isn't to say that they
should not present women's issues, on
the contrary, but that like mime, I
expect from them all things.

Movement is life energy, an abstract
force that draws us all to be and
become. It has no sex, no limitations. I
congratulate Suzanne Fox for the
courage to plunge into the struggle, to
claim her place and to present issues so
close to all of us. Without such artists
it would be a long way back to zero. I
see this struggle as the only way ahead.

Israel's Gays: No Promised Land

(Ed.'s Note: During the period from 1970 to 1972, I lived in Jerusalem. At that time, I was trying my best to be 'straight,' an attempt which brought me little success and much unhappiness. It wasn't too surprising. In Israeli society, at least during that time, there was no credible alternative. It took me almost two years to meet an Israeli gay male; an Israeli woman with whom I was close friends took about a year to 'come out' to me as a 'bisexual.' One thing that stands out in my mind and seems to symbolize Israeli attitudes towards the family and towards gay people for me was the number of pregnant women on the streets. It is true that Israeli women work and function socially right up through the last month of pregnancy, which might account for much of my perception. But it really did seem as if every woman had just had a baby or was about to have one. The society's emphasis was on marriage and reproduction — there was not much room for any other way of living.

Everyone rushed off as soon as they could to get married.

The Israeli gay man whom I became friendly with, I met in a fashion that was indicative of the prevailing social attitudes. I was taking a bus from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem when my hand quite accidentally rubbed against his. He didn't move his hand so I didn't move mine. We didn't look at each other or speak all the rest of the trip to Jerusalem — only when we got off the bus did we converse. Most of my friend's gay friends had all left the country; he wanted to come to the United States and study. I don't know if he ever did or if he survived the Yom Kippur War. I lost touch with him after a time. But Israeli society was and presumably still is a society in which there is little room for attitudes and life-styles that deviate significantly from the norm. Gayness was no exception.

The following article, written by an Israeli gay liberationist, I think captures accurately the situation of gay people within Israeli society — NM.)

By Asher Ma'ayan

The situation of gay people in Israel stands somewhere between precarious and promising. The gay movement is barely over a year old and is slowly starting to build its foundations, while the societal and governmental attitudes are just beginning to change.

Firstly, where do we stand before we start working on our own behalf? Homosexuality in Israel is illegal and punishable by a prison sentence of up to ten years, thanks to a British law which we inherited during our Mandate period. The ironic thing is that the law in Britain was liberalized considerably in the Sixties, after the Wolfenden report was released. It is to the government's credit that the stated policy of the Attorney General and Minister of Police is that the law will not be enforced in cases of consenting adults in private. This is in lieu of a

much needed law decriminalizing homosexuality, which has little chance of being passed by the Knesset (Parliament). This is due to the harsh realities of coalition politics and to the presence of the religious bloc of parties in the ruling coalition.

The other major problem facing Israeli gays today is the small-town and "one big family" nature of Israeli society. This fact causes much pain and worry for the majority of Israeli gays, and in fact, all Israelis who differ from societal norms in any way. There is a great deal of family pressure to marry. Neighbors, work colleagues and army buddies can be brutally frank and persistent in their comments. Also, this situation means that there is no place where an Israeli homosexual can escape and find anonymity. Gay people in other societies can always flee to the big city, but their Israeli coun-

terparts have no such opportunity within Israel. Even if a person moves to a city away from home, he or she will still be very near relatives, friends and people from the old "straight" life.

This problem is compounded by the fact that there is practically no rental housing in Israel. Single people generally live with their parents until they get married. They then buy a home with their new spouse. It is a frequent problem to find two people, neither of them having a place to which to invite the other. Another problem which causes grief for gay men is that each man serves about sixty days a year in the reserves, until age 59. These sixty days (occasionally more) are spent with the same men each year from age 21, and this situation causes Israeli gay men to feel that no matter where they are, someone from their unit might recognize them and spread the word. That is more pressure to not be identified as a gay.

What about the army? Well, luckily for us, shortages of manpower have caused the army to accept gay people — both men and women — more or less as equals. Until the Yom Kippur War of 1973, the army automatically rejected anyone who declared that he or she was gay. Since then, there are generally three options. To serve normally is possible, especially if the gay person has a skill which is needed. In this case the army usually ignores the fact of gayness (not writing it on your files), and you serve like anybody else. The second option is to serve, while letting you sleep at home every night. The third option, of course, is the rejection of the gay person. This is generally only done at the insistence of the person him or herself. If someone does serve in a limited capacity, he or she will of course not be accepted for a continuation of service after the compulsory three years (two years for women) and will not be allowed to enter an officers' course or be given a job which requires a security clearance.

As in many other countries, we have

a hooligan element here in Israel who are not what could be called "pro-gay." These types like to come to gay meeting places to harass and beat up homosexuals. This is especially true after there has been an article in the newspaper, or a program on TV. Another unfortunate aspect is that, in many cases, these kinds of people usually make up the lowest ranks in the police force. For this reason, it really doesn't matter what the policy of the police is as stated by their spokesperson. There are not infrequent instances of policemen actually roughing up gays, at the worst, and generally not being helpful to us.

Where do homosexuals meet in Israel? At least for gay men the most common meeting places are public parks in the large cities. There, one can keep that certain anonymity which is so important for the average Israeli gay person. What happens if a group of young toughs appears and starts to molest a single gay? Even if there are close to a hundred gay men in the park who hear the screams, they will disappear like rabbits. These people are not inherently cowards, and in wartime they fight quite bravely. They are just afraid that if they get involved, it will somehow affect their lives in a negative manner.

Other popular meeting places for men are public bath houses, beaches and similar outdoor locales. Aside from this, the new gay liberation organization provides chances to meet through its activities. There seems to be a very well developed network of groups of private friends in the cities. This is important to those who are involved, but doesn't help the young soldier, student or kibbutznik who thinks he or she is the only gay person in existence and has no one to discuss it with. Until the activities of the new gay organization started, people like this had no hope until they discovered one of the public parks, and started meeting other gays.

The situation for women has been even worse. Lesbians, until the forma-

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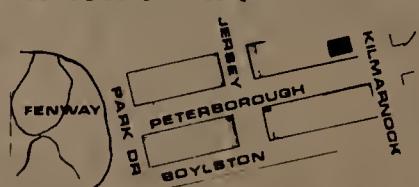
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tion of the gay group, had no place to meet each other, and there was no organized life for them outside of the small circles of friends which existed. Until last year, it was almost impossible for a gay woman to even locate her sisters in Israel.

After several changes of name, the new gay liberation organization has taken the name the Society for the Protection of Personal Rights (SPPR). At present, there are over 200 members, and another two hundred on its mailing list. The membership is composed of straight and gay men and women. The objectives of the SPPR are manifold, which is natural considering that it is Israel's only gay group.

Perhaps the most important function the group has is to serve as a known address for those young and not-so-young gay people who have just discovered their homosexuality. Each week, the SPPR publishes classified advertisements in the major newspapers, just announcing its existence. The response is wonderful. I wish that each reader could see the file of letters like, "I've been gay since I was sixteen, but living on a kibbutz, I thought I was alone in the world."

Another important function that the SPPR plays is to educate the wider Israeli society to the phenomenon of homosexuality. This is done by means of a media campaign, which has been rather successful. There was even a three-hour television program on the subject of homosexuality, which really brought the issue into public focus for the first time in Israel. One of the ironies of this program was that it was

impossible to find an Israeli-born gay who was willing to appear before the cameras. After a difficult search, four men and women were found who would appear and speak, but only with their faces silhouetted. Those who appeared openly acknowledging their homosexuality were new immigrants to Israel. There was also a spate of articles in the Hebrew press on the subject, and the SPPR arranged speakers at some of the local universities.

Although it seems like a losing battle, the SPPR has started organizing the campaign to repeal the present law regarding homosexuality. One or two individual Knesset members are actively helping us, but no one is very optimistic. The organization is itself completely non-political, unlike some gay organizations in other countries. It simply cannot afford to alienate one potential member due to a stand taken on an issue which is of secondary importance to the gay movement.

The new gay group provides all kinds of counseling for its members and, in fact, for any gay in trouble. This includes help with contacts with the police and army. Many people come to the group for referrals to psychologists or psychiatrists. A campaign is also being waged to educate Israel's gay community as to medical problems which are endemic; how to recognize them and how to get proper treatment. There have even been instances where the group has been contacted by social workers who are trying to get help for their gay clients in prisons and other institutions.

Another service that the SPPR provides is social. There is a disco dance once a week as well as a quiet get-together. The women have two weekly social events. There are also weekly consciousness-raising and political action group meetings. Once a month, there is a one-day outing to one of the many sites of interest in Israel. There is also a monthly newsletter in Hebrew, which we are still hoping to see monthly, and an English newsletter which comes out even more sporadically.

Those wishing to get in touch with the SPPR from abroad should do so at P.O. Box 16151, Tel-Aviv. Anyone who is coming to Israel and would like to get some information should write to "ISRAEL HOSPITALITY" at the same post office box. The first steps have been made, but much remains to be done.

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film

Hockney: Portrait of the Artist as a Cuckold

A Bigger Splash

by Jack Hazan. With David Hockney, Celia Birtwell and Peter Schlesinger. Back Bay Screening Room. Open April 13.

By David Holland

Jack Hazan's film on artist David Hockney, billed as a documentary or "portrait of the artist," is at once more and less than its sub-title. On the surface "A Bigger Splash" appears to be little more than a chronicling-for-the-archives of England's most sensational realist artist. Yet at the film's core lies a view of Hockney that he himself did not expect. In an interview in *Time Out* magazine Hockney commented: "I think at first it did (make him feel vulnerable). That's why I was shattered. It is giving a lot away I wouldn't have given away."

"A Bigger Splash" which is having its New England premiere at the Back Bay Screening Room, is a collage of film footage taken over a period of 3½ years. It is, for those who delight in peeking into the lives of the chic art-world, a monumental work. It's laced with Truffaut-like cinematography, a haunting musical score by Patrick Gowers, and scenarios that leave no brush-stroke unrecorded.

As the film tells: Hockney is grieved by the untimely estrangement from his lover of four years, Peter Schlesinger. During the following six months he submerges himself in the last Schlesinger canvas, "Peter by the Pool." The film is interspersed with scenes of a long-term friend pleading with David to remain in London. Meanwhile, Celia, the sensuously Renaissance wife of designer Ossie Clark, hovers in her flat with Schlesinger, refusing to



answer Hockney's plaintive and insistent knocking. Simultaneously, gallery owner Kasmin dauntlessly insists that Hockney step-up his production rate.

Throughout, Hockney paints daub-by-painful-daub on "Peter by the Pool" — the creation around which the film is constructed. An exhibition is being readied in New York. Schlesinger is shown sex-wrigthing with someone we barely know, attending arty loft productions of drag Miss Universe, and tickling Hockney's dreams with surreal transcontinental pool-hopping. Hockney finishes the canvas only to shred it with a palette knife and then re-create it within two weeks. Kasmin

gives up hope at this last endeavor, knowing Hockney's refusal to put his work on a production line will result in the closing of his ten-year-old gallery — one founded principally on the popularity of Hockney's work.

The film ends exactly as it began — Hockney sitting in Geneva sipping from a large footed tumbler. It's as if all that came between the beginning and the end were a fleeting remembrance — remembrance of things that Hockney would just as soon forget. From under his wide Panama he says, "I guess I'll get rid of all the paintings of Peter, yes, I'll keep the ones of my mother." A sad but fitting conclusion.

Hockney's work, which is just be-

ginning to receive critical notice on the east coast (first U.S. notice came from California and later New York), is often one-dimensional realistic interpretations executed in vivid colors. His portrait work has intrigued, if not at times angered, his famous models. In today's art landscape of influencers and imitators Hockney has none. His works, if available, command and receive five to six figure sums. The film arrives here at the pinnacle of his popularity and a month before the U.S. release of his autobiography, already sweeping Canada and Europe. Jack Hazan's film has remained true to the visuals of Hockney's paintings — clear, striking, contemplative, real-to-surreal.

As the film first opened in London in 1975 and sneaked in, unnoticed, to selected New York theaters it was slammed by critics, especially those of the gay press. Outrage was expressed over the depiction of shallow and glitz gay followers who only glitter more at the sight and sound of a whirring camera. But Hazan doesn't photograph the bizarre for sensationalism, he merely follows Hockney through his self-made house of mirrors. Straight critics, on the other hand, were shocked by the explicit depiction of Peter's sexual philanderings, scenes that in 1977 are ho-hum in their shock value.

In an interview with Len Richmond of *Time Out*, Hazan says: "I found [the scene] very erotic." He included it "partly to shock, and partly from a moral point of view. I didn't want the average man to be made cozy by homosexuality. I wanted to say, look this is real, these aren't just men touching each other nicely."

"Homosexuality isn't a silly whim of the artistic creative world. The movie is only sensational because people react against the gayness in it. Many people in America were outraged, or they tried to dismiss the movie out of hand. One distributor said to me, 'I find the lovemaking between the men repellent. Now, if you had only made the film about a lady artist and showed two women making love, that would have been fantastic.'

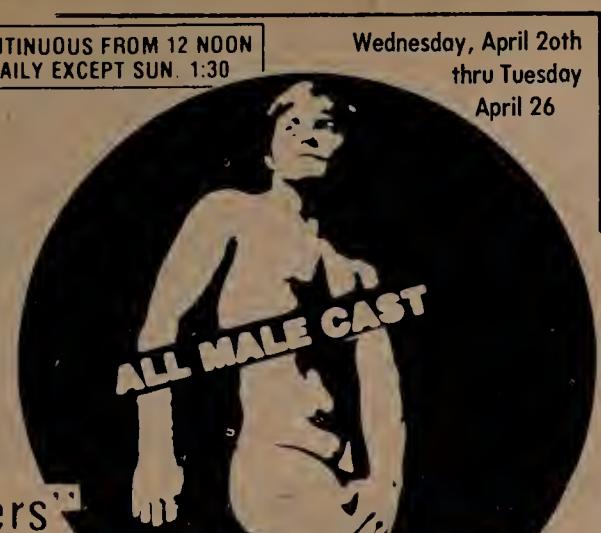
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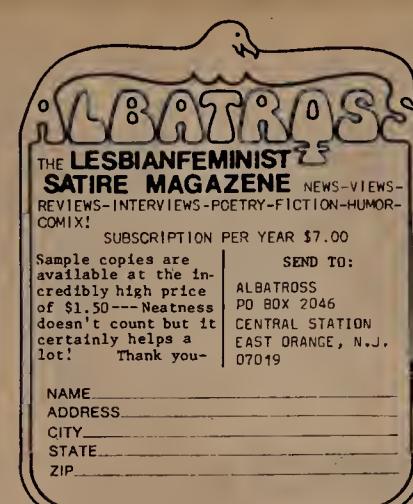
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eye on the camera

Lament for the Lemon-Tree Lady

By Nancy Walker

Anita Bryant appeared in a series of taped segments on "Who's Who" (CBS, Tuesday, Apr. 12, 8 p.m.). Her exquisitely timed pauses between exquisitely vacuous statements about "evil" parading as something "good" must have had a telling effect on the bigoted and the dim-witted, of which, unfortunately, there are all too many.

Letter from Home



Wednesday

Oh, where is my wandering boy tonight. I hear that sad refrain, when the silvery moon is shining o'er the hills of dear old Maine.

Are you numbered among the employed yet? I read the unemployment figures and I shudder. You do not have any stored-up blubber to live on:

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When asked what she would do if one of her children came to her and professed homosexuality, Anita replied that she would still love the child and so would God because God "hates the sin but loves the sinner." Aside from this she never answered a direct question with logic or fact but either changed the subject or quoted some Biblical pronouncement: "According

to the word of God it's an abomination to practice homosexuality." She said, "Our pastor would even burn down the school" rather than allow homosexual teachers in it.

Anita didn't even blink an eye when someone quoted the Bible at her saying that to cut the hair and shave the beard are also abominations. This information simply washed right over her. She

how you're doing.

Love,
M.B.B.

Uncle Charlie would like to hear from you. Also Auntie Eunice (ha-ha) (ho-ho)

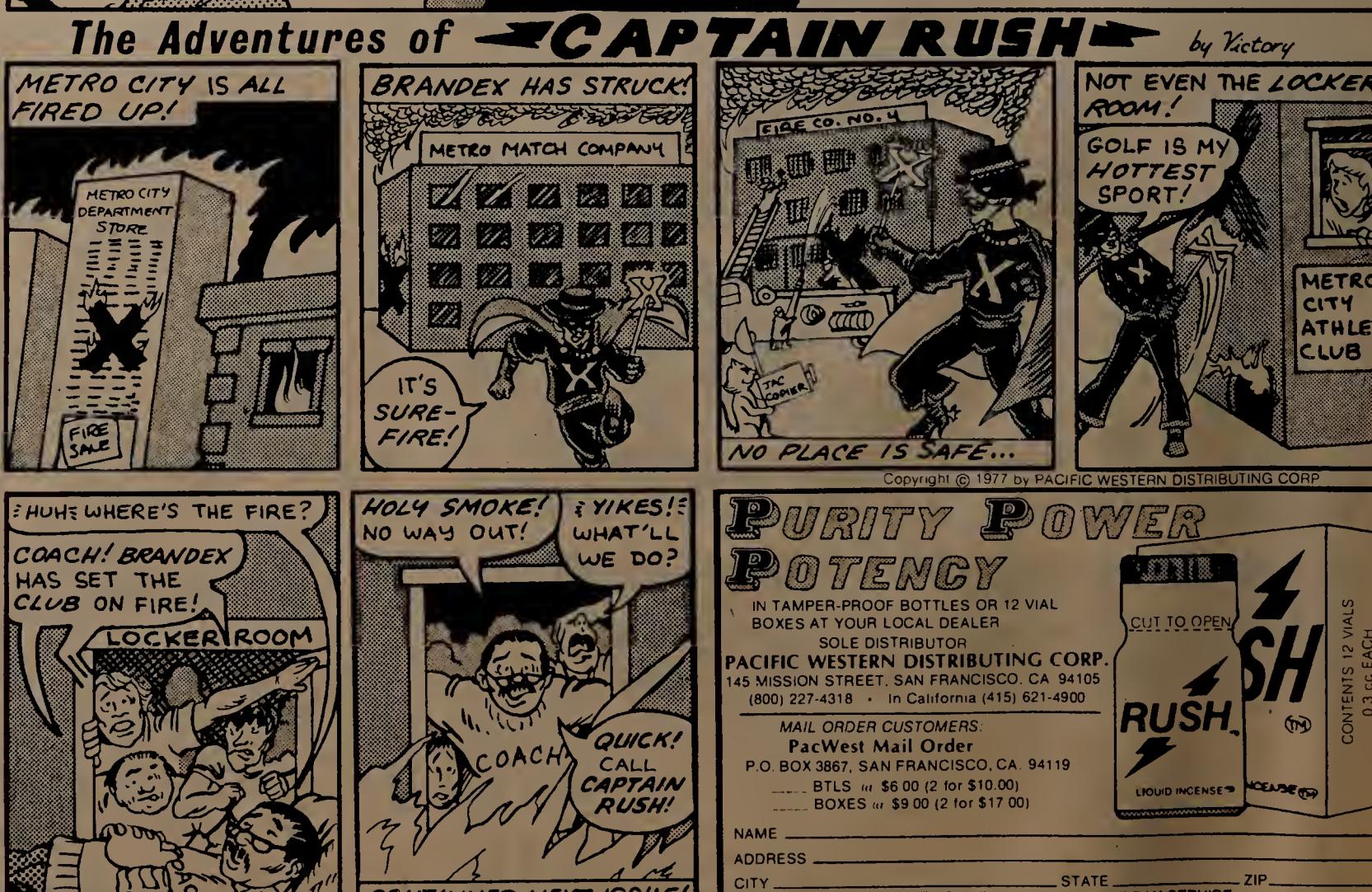
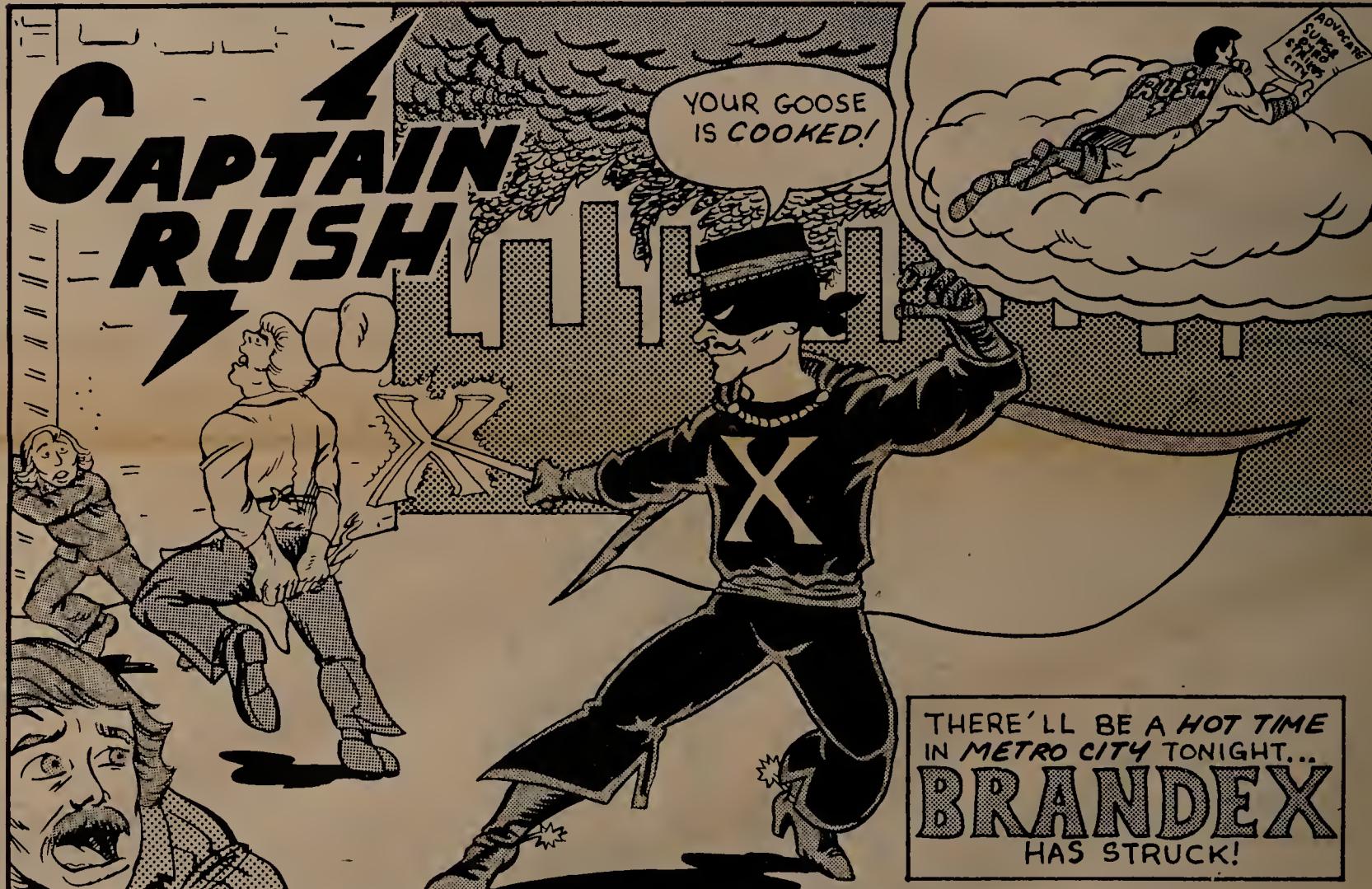
(This is an honest-to-goodness letter from a mother of a gay man. No matter how far "out" we come or how deep in the community we live, all of us have parents. And most of them are straight, sometimes the only straight people we need still to relate to. GCN opens up this space for you to share with us the letters from parents, so that we can know we're all in this together.)

has her "mission" and that's that. Meanwhile she practices Christianity in a 27-room villa on the water front in Miami Beach.

The silliest line of the evening was that since "homosexuals can't biologically reproduce," we have to recruit children to fill our ranks. Hard to believe??? Bryant's most disturbing statements indicated that she considers the laws of the church (her church, of course) to be above those of the land. The highest law in this country is the Constitution which definitely provides for the separation of church and state. If we are guaranteed freedom of religion, we must also be guaranteed freedom from it.

Bryant's Biblical ballyhoo is uttered with insidious intent, and she is a very impressive performer. She knows the precisely right moment to inject a sob into her voice as she did when she suggested starting "a ministry [halt, sniffle] to the homosexuals."

A terrific showperson, Anita is a one-woman parody of a Bible-thumping, psalm-singing revival meeting. And what she has revived is a sense of unity and purpose within the American gay community. Thank y'all, Anita. You may yet lead us to the promised land.



people, places and flings

By David Holland

Boston never has been one to encourage radical talents and consequently it has lost one of the best. Rael Lamb, once-upon-a-time Director of Dance for the New World, has been ushered into Montreal's largest ballet theaters on a veritable red carpet. Ms. Williams of Boston Ballet, on the other hand, was sharp enough to purchase his "Underwear to the Sun" which debuted in this year's Showcase along with his now famous "Butterfly." I hear we can look forward to Boston Ballet doing a season of his works. La! . . . Chappettes were treated to a wonderful affair Saturday last. Danny, Chaps' bartender, draft-pourer and giver of over-the-counter smiles, is departing for the sands of Provincetown and the spigots of Helltown, P-town's answer to leather lofts. Our Miss Suki presented the roses (armloads of) and passed out slices of an enormous confection. Now that's what I'd deem a sumptuous fringe benefit . . . And that's not the only person who has heard the sirens of P-town. Jacqui Mac, Somewhere's house-packer, is on her way to a summer at the Pied Piper. And after summer? Back to our town and perhaps some exciting new endeavors . . . Tennessee Williams' new



Linda Hopkins chanting her way through Boston's upcoming production of "Me and Bessie," Charles Playhouse, May 11.

play, "Vieux Carre," has been shelved. I had suspicions that that might happen. It suffered the death many other efforts have: Bombed in New Haven . . .

EMMAemmaEMMAemma
An important note to note: The stage-wonders at the Next Move are considering a benefit for GCN with their recent production of "Emma,"

based on the life of activist Emma Goldman. The benefit is tentatively scheduled for May 11. So if you have had plans to attend this premiere, how about waiting for us. May 11th. Merci . . .

EMMAemmaEMMAemma

Other theater notes this week include tidbits from C. Cohen and the arrival of "Me & Bessie," the coming musical with Linda Hopkins portraying "Empress of the Blues," Bessie Smith. Ms. Smith, you may remember, bled to death following a car accident and the refusal of a white hospital to admit her for treatment. And the Charles, you may remember, has now brought three black plays to this one theater. Opening May 11. 426-6912 . . . Lanford Wilson's "Hot L Baltimore" is getting a resident theater stage run at the Boston Arts Group beginning April 28. "Hot L" had a short-lived TV adaptation not too long ago. The original New York production received mounds of critical applause. 267-7196 . . . The Cambridge Prop is performing a special engagement for little people (and I don't mean dwarves). The revue is entitled "The Proposition Circus" and is intended to help kids improvise their heroes in a musical revue. April 21-24 only. It might be fun to simply go and watch but you'll have



Catherine Deneuve and Giancarlo Giannini — both visual delights in the Exeter St. Theater screening of "La Grande Bourgeoise."

to move to the rear so you don't obstruct the shortened view. 876-0088 . . . Last theater to-do this week includes the Caravan Theater's production of "Tell Me A Riddle." It's Tillie Olsen's award-winning and poignant story adapted to stage. I suspect that given the praise this troupe received from "Family" they may do as well with "Riddle." 868-8520 . . . Gore Vidal appears on Channel 2 April 29 at 11:00 p.m. to deliver his annual State of the Nation address.

REVIEW

The spring 1977 Boston Ballet production of "The Sleeping Beauty" represented the second performance of what will surely become an awaited annual event. Awaited because it is a splendid visual experience that brings to life Tchaikovsky's lyrical musical interpretation of the time-tested fairy tale about the power of the Kiss.

Lorenzo Monreal and Ballet Artistic Director E. Virginia Williams have staged the elaborate showcase (with over 180 costumes) from Marius Petipa's energetic choreography. The format becomes as much a glittered ballet showcase of (some) hidden talents as it acts out a tight story line.

Laura Young, as Princess Aurora sentenced to a Rumplestiltskin sleep (perhaps not so much from the witch's hidden spindle as from her endless *en pointes*), had the charm of anyone's imagining of a fairyland princess. But practice makes perfect and by the Princess' final quater-round of balanc-



ing acts she performs them with a grace that was not evident in her first shaky tries. It was also evident that the performances of Stephanie Moy and the loft-high leaps of Mark Johnson are deserving of careful scrutiny. Ms. Moy blossomed in the season's earlier "Flowering into New Battles." Her return here was more than welcome. Mr. Johnson's breathtaking moves as Prince Florestan sent a hushed shiver through the audience. Both dancers certainly deserve more attention before Boston loses them to the likes of the ABT, New York ensembles, or European sabbaticals.

The gargantuan scenery also needs note, as it was noteless until black sheets of "sleep" descended, allowing a creative array of fade-in and fade-outs that one might only expect in a film.

No-doubt next year's production will sell out long before its arrival in view of this year's applauded return.

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The film itself evokes the lifestyle of the artist. ■

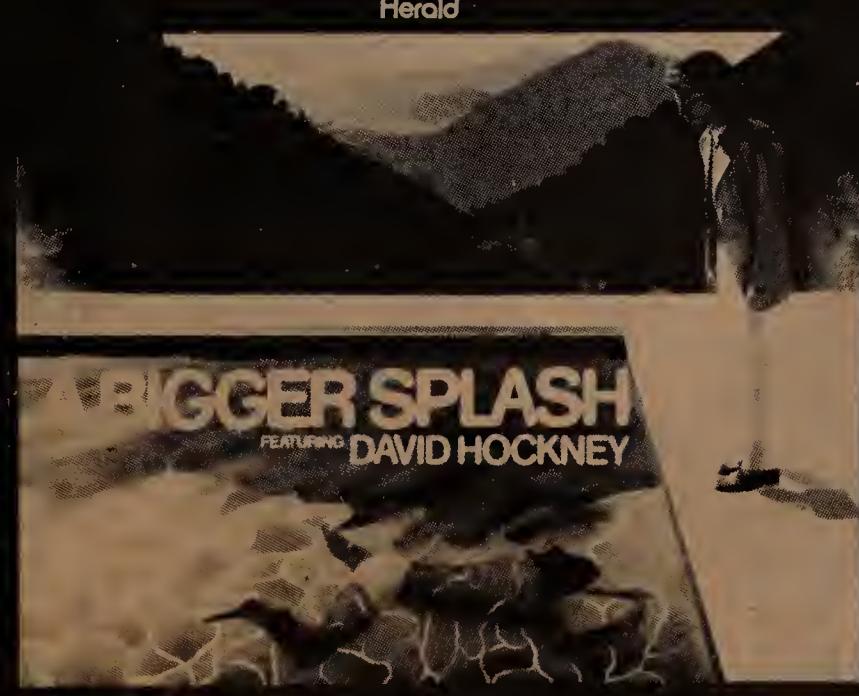
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Access (Cambridge Hotline) 661-3900
Boston Advocates for Human Rights, 73 Tremont St., rm 224, Box 2232, Boston 02107

Cambridge Gay Political Caucus, P.O. Box 218, E. Cambridge 02141

Cambridge North/Brattle Gays Write c/o Gay Legislation

Cambridge Women's Center

Cambridgeport Gays, c/o GCN, Box 6500

Charles Street Meetinghouse

Civil Liberties Union of Mass.

Closet Space (WCAS 740m AM)

Daughters of Bilitis

Dignity, 102 Charles St., Box 172, Boston 02114

Elaine Noble (Rep.)

Evangelicals Concerned

Fag Rag

Fenway Community Health Center

Fengay, c/o Tom Nylund

Focus, Women's Counseling, 186½ Hampshire St., Cambridge

Fort Hill Faggots for Freedom 445-6676, 440-8551 or 427-1893

Framingham Unicorn Society, P.O. Box 163, Framingham 01701

Gay Academic Union of New England, P.O. Box 212, Boston 02101

Gay AlAnon, South Shore

Gay Alert (for gay community emergency only)

Gay Community News

Gay Hotline (3-12 pm, Mon.-Fri.)

Gay Legislation '77

Gay Media Action, c/o GCN, Box 5000, 22 Bromfield St., Boston 02108

Gay Men's Center, 36 Bromfield St.

Gay Nurses' Alliance-East, P.O. Box 530, Back Bay Annex, Boston, MA 02117

Gay People of UMass/Boston 287-1900 (ext. 2396)

Gay Recreational Activities Committee, (GRAC) c/o GCN Box 8000

Gay Speakers Bureau, P.O. Box 2232, Boston 02107

Gay Way Radio (WBUR, 90.9FM)

Gay Youth Advocates, 70 Charles St.

Gender Identity Service

Good Gay Poets

Harvard-Radcliffe Gay Student Assn.

Homophile Community Health Service

Integrity, PO Box 2582, Boston 02208

Lesbian Liberation, c/o Women's Ctr.

Massachusetts Feminist Federal Credit Union, 186½ Hampshire St., Cambridge

National Lawyers Guild, 595 Mass. Ave.

National Organization for Women

WESTERN MASS. (Area Code 413)

Dignity/Springfield, P.O. Box 488, Forest Park Sta., Springfield 01108

Everywoman's Center, Amherst 545-0883

Gaybreak Radio (WMUA-FM, 91.9) 545-2876

Gay Women's Caucus, Amherst 545-3438

People's Gay Alliance, UMass/Amherst 545-0154

Southwest Women's Center 545-0626

Springfield Gay Alliance 732-9315

Valley Women's Center, Northampton 586-2011

547-2302

Wings Counseling 277-1761

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545-2876

545-0154

545-0626

732-9315

586-2011

calendar

18 mon

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U. Conn, Rte. 195, welcome at International House, 5-6:30, Swim Party, Hawley Amory, 7-9pm, free.

Boston — DOB women's poetry reading night, readers and listeners welcome, 7:30pm, 419 Boylston St., Rm. 323.

19 tues

Boston — First meeting to plan this year's Gay Pride festivities, 7:30pm, BAHR offices, 73 Tremont St., rm 224. **YOUR INPUT IS IMPORTANT!**

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U Conn, discussion on coming out to parents, Student Union Reception Room 217, 7:30-10pm, free.

Boston — Briefing session on status of Gay Rights Legislation in Mass. and in Dade County, Florida (and Anita Bryant's opposition thereto). 8:30pm, 73 Tremont St., rm 212. Sponsored by Mass. Gay Legislation and Boston Advocates for Human Rights. Info, call 742-4811. Open to the community.

Boston — Integrity special meeting with Rev. Wesner, National President, at Emmanuel Church, Newbury St., 7:30pm, info call 262-3057.

Boston — MCC topic with Marge Ragona speaking on separation, 7:30pm, Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St.

20 wed

Cambridge, MA — Radcliffe Women's Center sponsors an evening with Jill Johnston, 8pm, Emerson Hall, rm 105, Harvard Yard, \$1.50 to benefit Boston U. Women's Center.

NYC — International Conference of Gay Jews, April 21-24, for Boston info call (617) 262-0179.

21 thurs

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U. Conn, "Health and Homosexuality," Student Union Reception Room 216, 8:30-10:30pm, free.

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U. Conn, "Changing Roles of Homosexuals in Religion," Student Union Reception Room 216, 9-11pm, free.

Boston — Vikings Night at Herbie's Ramrod Room, Carver St.; tonight is Blue Balls Night.

22 fri

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U. Conn, Disco Mania Dance, 9-1pm, Quinnebaug Room of Commons Dining Hall, refreshments, BYOB, admission \$1.

Burlington, VT — Green Mountain Gay Weekend at U of Vermont, keynote addresses by Rita Mae Brown and Bruce Voeller, Carpenter Auditorium, Given Medical Bldg., 8:30pm, \$1.

Boston — Folders, stuffers, sealers: where are you? We need volunteers tonight and every Friday to help with the GCN mailing. No experience needed, just willing hands. GCN offices, 22 Bromfield St., 4:30-8pm, info call 426-4469.

Boston — Am Tikva, Jewish Gay Group meets at 7:30pm, 35 Worcester Sq., service and social.

Cambridge, MA — "Monday Morning Pronouns" by Micki Dickoff will be shown at YWCA, 7 Temple St., 8pm, first showing of a finished film; \$1.50, \$1 members.

23 sat

Burlington, VT — Green Mountain Gay Weekend continues at U. of Vermont today and Sunday, guests are Rita Mae Brown and Bruce Voeller, activities in Billings Student Center start at 10am including workshops, presentations and a Saturday night disco dance, info call (802) 656-4173.

Boston — Amethyst Women sponsor 50's dance at Old West Church, 131 Cambridge St., 8-12pm, \$2, for Lesbian recovering alcoholics and their women friends.

Storrs, CT — Gay Awareness Week at U. Conn, concert by Jade & Sarsaparilla, Student Union Ballroom, 8-10pm, \$1.

24 sun

Boston — Auction and brunch to benefit Gay Legislation at Somewhere, 295 Franklin St., 2pm.

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